

S. Arabia denies violating OPEC rule

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia on Saturday refuted allegation that a reported, \$2 billion oil-for-warplanes deal with France amounted to a violation of production and pricing rules laid down by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). A government statement issued here and distributed by the Saudi Press Agency said the kingdom continued to abide by OPEC rules on prices and production quotas. The statement rejected as "totally devoid of any truth" Western newspaper reports about the kingdom buying Mirage jet fighters from France and later cancelling this purchase. "The news about the kingdom buying warplanes for other (Arab) countries and later cancelling this purchase is fabricated and devoid of truth," said the statement.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تأسست من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

King urges coordination to end war

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent messages to Arab leaders calling for coordination of Arab efforts to help put an end to the Iran-Iraq war, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. The King said in his messages that the war, which is about to enter its fifth year, threatens Arab and Islamic interests. He pointed out that Iraq, which "resists heroically Iran's aggression and stands firmly in defence of its homeland against Iran's aggression," has accepted all initiatives for peacefully resolving the conflict while Iran continued in escalating war and shelling civilian towns and settlements. The King called for Arab solidarity in support of Iraq's willingness for ending the war in accordance with historical and international rights, accords and agreements so that the two neighbourly countries and countries of the region could live in peace and mutual respect without any intervening in other's internal matters.

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Hussein receives message from Zia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a cable from Pakistan President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq on the occasion of the Pakistani leader's passing through Jordan's air space on his way back from Moscow to Pakistan after attending Wednesday's funeral of the late Konstantin Chernenko. The cable conveyed General Zia's greetings to the King and Jordan people and praised relations between Pakistan and Jordan.

Suharto receives King's message

JAKARTA (AP) — Kamel Sharif, former minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, met President Suharto at the presidential office Saturday to talk with him about issues of mutual interest and to deliver a message from King Hussein. While declining to reveal the content of the message, Mr. Sharif told reporters that Mr. Suharto has given much attention to developments in the Middle East. "We shared similar views on the regional situation — especially on the Palestinian problem," he said. He said the president briefed him on developments in the South-East Asian nations, including progress made by the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Upper House to meet Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Ahmad Al Lawzi Saturday called the Senate to a session on Tuesday to discuss a number of proposed laws.

India sends envoys to Iran, Iraq

NEW DELHI (R) — India, current head of the Non-Aligned Movement, is sending envoys to Iran and Iraq as a follow up to its recent call for an end to the four-year war between the two countries. J.S. Teja, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, left Saturday for Tehran and A.P. Venkateswaran, also a ministry secretary, leaves Sunday for Baghdad, a ministry spokesman said. "They will be discussing concrete measures to end the war," the spokesman added.

Sudan vice-president flies to U.S.

CAIRO (R) — Sudanese Vice-President Major-General Omar Mohammed Al Tayeb flew to Washington Saturday for talks with U.S. officials. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported from Khartoum. MENA said Gen. Tayeb's talks there would be a follow-up to discussions earlier this month in Khartoum between U.S. Vice-President George Bush and Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri. It did not say when Gen. Tayeb would be in Washington or how long he planned to stay. Mr. Bush said during the visit that his government had released \$15 million of suspended aid to drought-stricken Sudan.

Tlass issues warning to Geagea fighters

Syria moves forces against Falange rebels

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria moved troops and tanks to the northern fringes of Lebanon's mostly Christian heartland Saturday and said it was supporting beleaguered Lebanese President Amin Gemayel against pro-Israeli rebel militiamen within his own Falange Party.

"The objective of this move is to assist President Amin Gemayel and the legitimacy," said Syria's Defence Minister Lieutenant-General Mustafa Tlass. "It is aimed at supporting the Lebanese army and preventing the situation from further deterioration."

The move appeared designed to bring pressure on the insurgents rather than to invade the Christian hinterland, most of which has been seized by the anti-Gemayel militiamen in the last five days.

Local radio stations in Beirut said Syrian tanks were seen rolling south of the Madfoun Bridge on the coastal highway towards Christian areas from Syrian-controlled areas but Lebanese security sources said the Syrians used less than a battalion of 800 men with a few tanks and armoured personnel carriers in the move.

"I don't think they've massed a big enough force for a military thrust," said one source, who requested anonymity.

Gen. Tlass said the revolt staged by pro-Israeli militia commander Samir Geagea against the authority of Mr. Gemayel's Falange Party on Tuesday was an "obvious attempt to sabotage the course of national reconciliation in Lebanon." He added, "Syria cannot stand idly by."

Shortly after the Tlass warning was broadcast by Lebanese radio stations, Mr. Geagea's office issued a statement that denied "the

presence of any abnormal military moves in the Batroun province" in northern Lebanon.

There was no word how far south the Syrian units pushed from the regular checkpoint on the Madfoun Bridge, 47 kilometres north of Beirut.

The Lebanese army mans a permanent checkpoint just two kilometres south of the Syrian checkpoint. Another two kilometres southward on the highway, the rebel militiamen control the so-called "Barbara position" at the entrance to the Christian zone.

In the past two days, Syria has twice warned that it would not tolerate the rebellion in the ranks of the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia. The rebels have demanded the militia's independence from the Falange Party and separate representation in future negotiations to end Lebanon's almost 10-year civil war. They also have been critical of Syria's dominant influence on the Lebanese government.

Syria charged that the rebels acted in collusion with Israel to sabotage Syrian mediation efforts between Lebanon's warring factions.

The Syrians have maintained about 30,000 troops in northern and eastern Lebanon since 1976, when they intervened to smother the first round of the civil war.

"The Syrian warnings in the

past two days are very serious and mean exactly what they say: Syria cannot stand handcuffed towards the move staged by the Lebanese Zionists," said Tishria, Syria's government-controlled newspaper.

Former Lebanese President Suleiman Franjeh, a Maronite Catholic like Mr. Gemayel and an arch foe of Mr. Geagea, arrived in Damascus from his northern stronghold town of Zgorta Saturday and held talks with President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Franjeh holds Mr. Geagea personally responsible for the June 15, 1978, massacre of his elder son, Tony, along with Tony's wife, three-year-old daughter and 30 bodyguards at the Franjeh summer resort of Ehden.

The rebels control Beirut's Christian sector, the port city of Tyre and the ancient town of Byblos north of the capital, and the Kesrouwan mountains to the northeast. Mr. Gemayel's Falangist supporters are sandwiched in the Metn mountains, the traditional stronghold of the Gemayel family, which is between east Beirut and the Kesrouwan.

The independent Beirut newspaper An Nahar said Saturday that Syria had turned down an offer by the rebels to negotiate. It said the rebels' chief political adviser, Karim Pakradoni, called Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam by telephone Friday night and asked for a meeting to explain the mutineers' objectives. "We are in contact with the legitimacy," An Nahar quoted Mr. Khaddam as replying, and the paper said the conversation ended there.

The legitimacy in Syrian political parlance means Mr. Gemayel and his national coalition government, which is headed by Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Tunisia jails 46 members of banned Islamic group

TUNIS (AP) — A Tunisian court on Saturday sentenced 46 people to prison terms ranging from six months to two years for belonging to a banned fundamentalist Islamic organisation.

Nine of the accused were sentenced in absentia. All of the fugitives received two-year jail terms. The 46 were accused of belonging to the international Islamic Liberation Party (PLI), which is illegal in Tunisia. The 37 defendants present in court all admitted membership in the party but said they were dedicated to turning Tunisia into an Islamic state by "peaceful means of persuasion," their lawyers argued.

Most of the defendants were identified as civil servants, teachers, students and technicians. They faced a maximum of sentence of five years in prison.

Muslim fundamentalists were linked to a week of rioting and bloodshed throughout Tunisia early in 1984 triggered by an announced increase in the price of cereals. The price increases were later rescinded by Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba.

In August 1983, a military court handed down sentences ranging from two to eight years in prison for a total of 30 convicted PLI activists, including 19 soldiers. The military defendants included a lieutenant and a captain, and political observers allege that the PLI's penetration of the armed forces substantiates charges that it plans an eventual coup d'etat.

According to prosecutors, the PLI wants to impose Islamic law throughout the Arab-Islamic world by three stages: recruitment and ideological training, public awareness and, finally, overthrow of the established order.

Resistance keeps up attacks on Israelis

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli forces and their Lebanese militia allies were attacked at least six times overnight in South Lebanon and the Israelis stormed the village of Bourj Rahhal Saturday in their continuing attempt to stem the escalating resistance operations against the Jewish state's 33-month-old occupation of the region.

Sources quoted by Reuters and the Associated Press said that during the night resistance men attacked four positions manned by Israeli forces and two manned by Israel's Lebanese militia allies. No casualties were reported in any of the attacks.

A spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force in the south said at least 150 Israeli soldiers in 15 armoured personnel carriers and seven other vehicles entered Bourj Rahhal, northeast of Tyre, at 6.30 a.m. (0430 GMT) and rounded up 150 men for interrogation.

They left five hours later, taking five people with them including a doctor, whose arrest caused an outcry among villagers, security sources in the south said. Israeli foot patrols barred access to Bourj Rahhal after the main force left.

French U.N. troops searched the village Husseinieh (Religious centre) and other buildings for explosives at the request of residents, the spokesman, Timor Goksel, said.

Twelve days ago a bomb concealed in a Husseinieh killed 11 people in nearby Maarakeh two days after an Israeli raid.

Resistance men fired four rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) at the Israeli force as it camped overnight near Hmairi village, east of Bourj Rahhal, the sources said.

A roadside bomb exploded Saturday near Al Bass, just outside Tyre, they added. Lebanese security sources said commandos fired RPGs and small arms at a nearby Israeli stronghold.

An Israeli post near Jouaya, 15 kilometres east of Tyre, also came under RPG attack at dawn. Three houses and a water tank were hit in shooting that followed, the sources said.

A six-man Israeli patrol crossed Israel's "front line" at the Qasmieh Bridge, eight kilometres north of Tyre, firing to both sides of the road. Lebanese army units one kilometre north of the bridge went on alert, the sources added.

Shultz says Reagan ready to work with Gorbachev

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan, mindful that a unique "moment of opportunity" is at hand, is prepared to work with the new leadership in the Soviet Union towards a more constructive relationship, Secretary of State George Shultz said Friday.

Mr. Shultz, continuing the Reagan administration's conciliatory tone toward Moscow since the installation of Mikhail Gorbachev as the new Soviet leader, said Mr. Reagan is prepared to deal with specific Soviet-American problems and "to achieve concrete results."

Based on their 85-minute meeting Wednesday, Mr. Shultz said he found Mr. Gorbachev a "very capable, energetic person who is

businesslike.

"When you go to a meeting he seems to be well informed, well prepared. He gets right at the issues in a conversational kind of form."

While it appears that Mr. Gorbachev is prepared to work at improving relations in a "constructive vein," Mr. Shultz said, it remains to be seen whether anything can be accomplished.

Mr. Shultz cautioned the "good faith and hope" of the Reagan administration is tempered by a "healthy measure of realism" about the Soviet Union — "a realism based on a history which has not always fulfilled our expectations."

At another point, he said the Soviets are pursuing a "business-

Mubarak meets Kohl, Craxi; Baz says U.S. did not reject plan

VENICE, Italy (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held talks with the leaders of West Germany and Italy on Saturday as his top political adviser was quoted as saying the United States was seriously considering the Egyptian proposal for Middle East peace and had not rejected it.

In a stop-over at Frankfurt airport on his way home to Cairo, Mr. Mubarak gave West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl details of his visits to Paris, Washington and London to promote his proposal for talks between the U.S. and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team, prior to direct negotiations with Israel.

Mr. Mubarak described the one-hour talks with Dr. Kohl as "very fruitful" and Dr. Kohl said West Germany hoped the initiative was a full success.

Mr. Mubarak added that he and Dr. Kohl had agreed to maintain contact on the peace plan, drawn up after an agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters said the visit was decided only after Mr. Mubarak left Washington. They said the Egyptian leader had personally called for the stop-over to meet Dr. Kohl, with whom he enjoys close relations following visits to West Germany in 1982 and 1983. Mr. Mubarak met Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi briefly in a stop-over in Venice later Saturday.

Mr. Mubarak said his three-day visit to Britain, where Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher expressed her support for his plan, had been "very satisfactory" but made no comment on his U.S. trip.

President Reagan was cool towards Mr. Mubarak's proposal for talks between the U.S. and the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian team. The U.S. refuses to talk to the PLO until it explicitly recognises Israel.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mubarak's political adviser, Osama Al Baz said in a Egyptian newspaper interview that the U.S. is seriously considering President Mubarak's proposal and has not rejected it.

Dr. Baz, director of Mr. Mubarak's political affairs office, also told the newspaper Al Gomhuria the United States "has no business" vetoing participation of the PLO in peace talks.

Dr. Baz accompanied Mr. Mubarak and the interview was



West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl greets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who made a brief stopover in Frankfurt Saturday on his way home from the U.S. and Britain (AP wirephoto)

granted in Washington just before the Egyptian leader left for Britain on Wednesday.

After talks with Mr. Mubarak President Reagan described the Egyptian plan as a "promising beginning," but indicated it did not go far enough.

"The United States did not reject a dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation," Dr. Baz told Al Gomhuria. "It is giving it serious consideration and is asking questions about the identity of the delegation, what will follow the dialogue, are there any preconditions for the dialogue, will the dialogue deal with substantive questions and can it be guaranteed that after this round there will be other rounds with Israeli participation."

Dr. Baz apparently sought to quash some international media reports that the United States had killed the Egyptian plan.

"We have been able to persuade the United States on some points," Dr. Baz said. "It is inconceivable that we could persuade it on everything in one go. But we achieved this step. We brought the stagnation (in peace efforts) to an end and emphasised the necessity of movement."

"We laid before President Reagan several alternatives for movement in the future and the process is continuing."

He did not spell out the alternatives.

The Feb. 11 Jordan-PLO agreement called for negotiations through an international conference for a settlement based on exchanging peace for Israeli-occupied Palestinian land in accordance with U.N. resolutions.

The agreement did not specify Security Council Resolution 242 which, in addition to providing for Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands, recognises Israel's right to exist within secure boundaries.

The United States has insisted on explicit PLO acceptance of Resolution 242 before Washington will talk with the organisation.

Asked about this refusal, Dr. Baz told Al Gomhuria: "We do not accept the American refusal of PLO participation. We cannot imagine the United States vetoing Palestinian participation."

Referring to American acceptance of talks with Palestinian, but not PLO, representatives, Dr. Baz said: "Since we want Palestinian participation, the only form is PLO participation because no other party is capable of speaking for the Palestinians. This was a decision taken by the Palestinians and unanimously supported by the Arabs."

(Continued on page 2)

U.S. labour secretary quits job to face fraud charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Labour Secretary Raymond J. Donovan resigned from President Ronald Reagan's cabinet on Friday after he was ordered to stand trial on fraud and larceny charges, the White House announced.

Mr. Reagan accepted the resignation "with deep regret" and said Mr. Donovan was "entitled to the benefit of a presumption of innocence," the announcement said.

Word of the resignation came hours after a state judge refused to dismiss larceny and fraud charges against Mr. Donovan and nine others, ruling that there was sufficient evidence to bring the case to trial.

Mr. Donovan and codefendants were charged with oversteating \$7.4 million in payments to a minority controlled subcontractor on a subway tunnelling

project run by Schiavone Construction Co. of Secaucus, New Jersey, which Mr. Donovan owns.

The indictment, handed up Sept. 24, accused the defendants of using a phony equipment lease arrangement to illegally circumvent rules that set aside a portion of federally funded construction jobs for minority-owned firms.

Mr. Donovan was Schiavone's executive vice president at the time of the subcontract, in 1979 and 1980.

Mr. Donovan has denied any knowledge of the subcontract, and he and the other defendants contend that no crime was committed. They have suggested that the indictment was meant to embarrass Mr. Reagan's reelection campaign.

King Hassan tours Sahara

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco Saturday visited frontline defences in the Western Sahara near a spot where Polisario guerrillas said they had inflicted heavy losses on Moroccan troops recently.

King Hassan, supreme commander of the armed forces, inspected bunkers 40 kilometres south of the Moroccan phosphate mines of Bou Craa.

He visited underground posts, where electronic sensors monitor guerrillas' movements in the desert, the local field headquarters, and trenches and support bases along the lines.

It was the king's first visit to the front line in the nine-year conflict with the Polisario which is fighting Morocco for independence of the former Spanish colony.

In communications published in neighbouring Algeria, the Polisario said it had launched two major attacks on the Bou Craa sector on Feb. 25 and 26, killing more than 100 Moroccan troops.

"My mission has been accomplished," Mr. Vreven said in an interview on Belgian Radio. When asked to stay if that meant the missiles were at Florennes, he added:

"Yes, but I first have to inform the prime minister... I can give you no details," Mr. Vreven was to meet Prime Minister Wilfried Martens later Saturday.

According to the Brussels daily La Libre Belgique the missiles arrived on a U.S. air force transport plane at 6.20 p.m. (1720 GMT) Friday, less than three hours after Mr. Martens told the parliament Belgium would deploy the medium-range nuclear missiles.

INSIDE

- * American journalist kidnapped in Beirut, page 2
- * No world history complete without study on Bilad Al Sham, Hassan says, page 3
- * Greek Communists side with Socialists in presidential election, page 4
- * Soviet air crew latest to sight UFO, page 5
- * Holmes stops Bay in far-west fight, page 6
- * Japanese economic growth rate nears 10 per cent, page 7
- * Britain believes Soviet base not linked to 'Star Wars', page 8

GCC calls for world efforts to end Gulf war

KUWAIT (R) — The Secretary-General of the six-nation Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Abdullah Bishara, called Saturday for a worldwide effort to end the war between Iran and Iraq.

"We urge the nations of the world, including superpowers, to devote all effort to ending the war," he told reporters here.

The latest flare-up in the four-and-a-half year old war is expected to top the agenda at a meeting of the council's foreign ministers in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Sunday.

The ministers from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates had arranged to meet before the latest flare-up in the war.

Mr. Bishara said talks last month between the Gulf states and the European Community (EC), in which the two sides discussed petrochemical sales between the two sides.

The building of relations to cover a variety of economic activities would provide Gulf states with technology for their development plans, he added.

A GCC spokesman told Reuters by telephone from Riyadh the Middle East situation and Lebanon would also be discussed.

Saudi Arabia Friday night expressed concern over the fighting and urged the two countries to end the conflict, which it said only benefited the enemies of Islam.

Sanaa supports Iraq

North Yemen voiced its full support for Iraq Saturday in its four-and-a-half year old war with

Iran and stressed Sanaa would side with Iraq in defending Arab territory, the official North Yemeni News Agency Saba said.

The statement by Saba followed an extraordinary cabinet meeting which the agency said reviewed the latest developments in the fighting, now in "its most dangerous stages following strikes against cities and the continuing Iranian attacks against Iraqi territory."

Referring to the many mediation efforts by the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement, the statement blamed Iran for failing to respond to peace moves.

The Security Council, noting what it called an "alarming aggravation in the situation" Friday called for Iran and Iraq to cease hostilities, starting with an end to attacks on civilian targets.

In a statement read by this month's president, Blaise Rabeitica of Madagascar, the council said it would "pursue consultations with the two parties and with the secretary-general with a view to finding an end to this tragic conflict."

The statement came after more than two days of private consultations among the members. Iraqi U.N. Ambassador Riyadh Al Qaysi stayed outside the consultation room, using breaks to press for a statement or resolution calling for an overall end to hostilities.

Iran, feeling the Security Council has favoured Iraq, took no part in the Council's deliberations. The Council resorted to the statement because of apparent difficulties in finding common language for a formal resolution.

The statement said the Council members "emphasise anew, the urgent need for a cessation of hostilities commencing with the implementation of the moratorium on attacks against purely civilian population centres with a view to finding a peaceful settlement to the conflict in conformity with the U.N. charter and international law and acceptable to both parties."

It said the recent "scale of renewed hostilities" has led to an alarming aggravation of the situation between the two countries, to the detriment of peace and security in the region.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, said Friday he had written to the presidents of Iran and Iraq, urging them to immediately stop attacking each other country's civilian targets.

In a statement released to the press, Mr. Gandhi said India was prepared to "make whatever contribution it could" to help end the war between the two nations.

Mr. Gandhi, chairman of the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement of which both Iran and Iraq are members, said he expressed his "deep concern" in his letters to the two presidents about the escalating situation in the Gulf region.

Kuwaiti newspapers said Saturday Iraq had emerged as the major beneficiary of the Gulf war, and called for an urgent Soviet initiative to end it.



KING VISITS ARMY HQ: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday held talks with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker at the Army General Headquarters. The King discussed with the commander-in-chief matters pertaining to the Armed Forces. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

Arab health ministers begin talks

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Arab Health Ministers' Council opened a four-day meeting in Baghdad Saturday to discuss among other subjects health conditions in the occupied Arab territories.

Also to be discussed is the role of the Palestine Red Crescent Society to offer medical services to the Palestinian people.

Also on the agenda are topics pertaining to paramedics in the Arab World and means of improving the medical profession, protection against radiation, health information and pharmaceuticals.

Israeli general says no change in pullout plan

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's chief of staff said Saturday he had not proposed altering the timetable for withdrawal from Lebanon despite heavy casualties in Lebanese resistance attacks and growing pressure to speed up the pull-back.

"There has been no basic change in the operational, logistic and intelligence considerations which directed the withdrawal plan," General Moshe Levy told state radio.

"We have no problem with the pull-back. If we reach a (new) conclusion, I'll go to the government with it," he said.

Fourteen Israeli soldiers were killed last week in occupied South Lebanon, including 12 in a suicide car bomb attack a few hundred metres from the border. In reprisal raids under an "iron fist" policy adopted last month, Israeli forces have killed dozens of Lebanese civilians, arrested scores more and destroyed homes containing weapons.

Israeli leftists and opponents of the 33-month occupation, which has resulted in 636 Israeli dead, want an immediate withdrawal to avoid more casualties and reduce the risk of resistance attacks.

Under the present plan, Israeli troops are expected to redeploy along the international border by next Autumn.

In a weekend interview in the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he expected clashes with Lebanese resistance fighters after the redeployment and warned that Israel would hold local Lebanese leaders responsible.

"We'll make it clear to them that there are only two possibilities. Either there will be quiet on both sides of the border, or...

there will be such a disturbance of their lives that they will be ready for co-existence," he said.

In a lecture Saturday to Labour Party members, Mr. Rabin said that "in the last 100 years, it's been proven that whoever initiates a war usually loses it. That's how it is in the Middle East."

Ariel Sharon, who commanded Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon and is now commerce and industry minister, told Army Radio Saturday he had recommended to the government that Israel maintain a "security belt" in Southern Lebanon 30 kilometres deep.

Mr. Sharon said the zone should include eastern Lebanon's strategic Jebel Barukh, from where Israeli troops overlook the Beirut-Damascus Highway, and extend up to the former Israeli line on the Awali River.

He said a minimum number of Israeli troops should stay in the security zone, which would be controlled by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

Mr. Sharon said troops of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), deployed since Israel's 1977 invasion of Lebanon, should not be permitted to go south of the current Israeli line on the Litani River.

A UNIFIL spokesman said Israeli troops raided the Lebanese village of Bourj Rahhal near Tyre Saturday, rounding up 150 men for interrogation. The Israelis left after five hours, taking five people, including a doctor, with them.

Military sources in Tel Aviv said Israeli and SLA positions were attacked five times overnight with rockets and light arms fire. No casualties were reported.

Klibi meets Craxi

ROME (AP) — Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi has met with Premier Bettino Craxi to discuss the escalating war between Iran and Iraq, Italian government officials said.

They added that Mr. Klibi asked for Western European support in bringing about a truce in

the lengthy conflict, while Mr. Craxi expressed the Italian government's "deep worries" over the war.

Mr. Klibi, who was leading an Arab League delegation in the visit to Rome, also met with Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

American journalist kidnapped in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Guzman Saturday abducted a senior American journalist in Beirut in the third kidnapping of a foreigner in the Muslim-controlled Western sector of the city in three days.

Terry Anderson, 37-year-old Middle East bureau chief of the U.S. news agency the Associated Press (AP), was seized by three gunmen as he drove to work after an early-morning game of tennis, an AP spokesman said.

His abduction followed the seizure of two Britons in the previous two days. It brought to eight the number of foreigners missing in Beirut after being kidnapped in the Western sector.

No claims of responsibility have been made for the latest wave of kidnappings, which came within a week of the blocking of Lebanon's attempt to win U.N. condemnation of Israel's attacks on the South Lebanese people.

The United States aroused massive indignation in Lebanon by vetoing a Lebanese resolution in the U.N. Security Council last Monday. Britain abstained in the vote after trying to persuade Lebanon to tone down the resolution.

On Thursday, 60-year-old British scientist Geoffrey Nash was abducted in west Beirut and British businessman Brian Levick, 59, was seized Friday.

AP photographer Donald Mell told Reuters Anderson was seized after the two had played an early-morning game of tennis and were on their way together to work.

He said a green Mercedes saloon blocked their way. Three gunmen armed with pistols then elbowed Mell aside, bundled



Geoffrey Nash Anderson into their car and drove off.

A previous U.S. veto of a Lebanese resolution last September was followed by the suicide car bombing of a U.S. embassy annex in east Beirut.

The U.S. embassy this week evacuated a number of staff members, citing the unsettled situation in Beirut, but a spokesman declined to say if more evacuations were likely.

Anderson, based in Beirut for more than two years, was the second American correspondent to be kidnapped in a year.

"The AP is contacting all militia and government officials and is trying to enlist their help," AP Correspondent G.G. Labelle said.

Jeremy Levin, bureau chief of the U.S. Television Cable News Network (CNN) regained his freedom last month after being seized by militants in March 1984. Four other Americans are still missing after being kidnapped in the last 12 months.

Turkish premier starts visit to Saudi Arabia

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal left Saturday for a six-day visit to Saudi Arabia intended to consolidate a year of expanding links between the two countries.

Turkish officials said there were no political differences to be resolved and economic ties would be a central topic in Mr. Ozal's discussions with his host, First Deputy Prime Minister, Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz.

The two countries have a military cooperation programme and Turkey trains Saudi cadets. Turkey recently received from Saudi Arabia a \$250 million credit and \$200 million for housing improvements.

With Mr. Ozal were Foreign Minister Yavuz Selim, Defence Minister Zeki Yavuzturk and other officials.

The officials said that despite Turkey's prime location for exporting to the Gulf it had achieved a less than one per cent share of Saudi imports. "There is capacity for more," one official said.

Trade between the two countries has dropped in the last three years, from \$864 million in 1982 to \$633 million in 1983 and \$508

million in the first 11 months of 1984.

But the officials said Turkish companies had \$4.5 billion worth of contracting business in Saudi Arabia and some 100,000 Turks work there.

Turkey wanted to increase its exports of both foodstuffs and industrial products and explore prospects for joint investment projects, the officials said.

Ties have been expanding since Mr. Ozal came to office in December 1983. President Kenan Evren visited Saudi Arabia last year and the Saudi crown prince went to Turkey last September. Officials said plans were being laid for a visit to Turkey by King Fahd later this year.

Mr. Ozal was quoted as telling journalists Friday that Turkey's prestige abroad was increasing. "Tomorrow we are going to Saudi Arabia. Previously we could not even get a meeting with them," he said.

Political issues expected to come up during Mr. Ozal's talks in Saudi Arabia include the Gulf war, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Lebanon and Afghanistan.

Baz says U.S. did not reject Mubarak proposal

(Continued from page 1)

"This means the PLO must participate and the United States or any other side has no business choosing Palestinian representatives."

He said Egypt demands that Palestinian representation in a joint delegation with Jordan be "agreed on with the PLO and in its name and not without it. If the United States does not accept this now, we shall press it (to accept) in the coming weeks."

Dr. Baz said the PLO "came quite close to acceptance of Resolution 242" in the accord with Jordan.

If the PLO is required explicitly to accept Resolution 242 in advance of any talks, Dr. Baz said, then Israel "simultaneously" should accept the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. "Otherwise, everything should be left for discussion at the negotiating table," he said.

Dr. Baz also suggested the proposed preliminary dialogue involving a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation not be confined to the United States but also include the European Community.

He said if current efforts for a

preliminary dialogue take "a positive turn," King Hussein will visit Washington.

"We are keen on maintaining the momentum and preventing Israel from swallowing the (occupied) West Bank and Gaza, because this is the imminent danger," Dr. Baz said.

Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said meanwhile that the cool U.S. response to President Mubarak's plan has not affected American-Egyptian relations.

"Absolutely not," Mr. Ali said in answer to a question whether the two countries relations were affected by the U.S. hesitation to endorse Mr. Mubarak's proposal.

"The U.S. reservations stem from its fear that opponents of the Jordan-PLO accord may block any progress and subsequently expose the U.S. Mideast policy to another setback," Mr. Ali said in apparent reference to Syria and radical PLO factions.

"This will not be in the interest of Israel, the United States and the Arabs," Mr. Ali said in the interview with the newspaper Al-Ahram when asked what would happen if Washington insisted on its refusal to play an active role in

the peace-making efforts.

In Washington, on Friday, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz praised Mr. Mubarak for the recent movement in Middle East peace efforts and said that Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy expects to tour the region shortly. "We will be doing everything we can to keep the momentum towards peace going," Mr. Shultz said in a press conference.

Mr. Shultz said the United States has "a very active diplomacy" in the Middle East. He noted that Arab and Israeli leaders have made recent visits to the United States and said the United States is sending Mr. Murphy back there to assess developments.

He said President Mubarak deserves praise for helping to restart the Middle East peace process.

Concerning Israel's financial problems, Mr. Shultz applauded efforts in Tel Aviv to bring the country's inflation under control, but said he did not want to "prescribe" economic programmes to another country.

"I do think clearly the things they say and are trying to do are key things," he said. "The underlying things are getting control of the budget which means getting control of spending."

He mentioned in particular a proposed "budget control law," which he said would allow the finance ministry to "have a better hand" in controlling spending by other ministries.

And he said there is legislation pending to give the Bank of Israel greater independence to "get control of the money supply."

Numeiri appoints defence minister

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri Saturday named General Abdul Rahman Mohammad Hassan Swaredahab defence minister and appointed the attorney-general as a third vice-president, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported.

Mr. Numeiri, who took power in a 1969 military coup, had himself held the defence portfolio for several years. General Swaredahab, whom Mr. Numeiri also named armed forces commander-in-chief, was hitherto deputy commander-in-chief, SUNA said.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
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JD 800,000 allocated for voluntary societies

AMMAN (Petra) — A JD 800,000 were allocated for the support of voluntary societies in the East and West Banks of Jordan, according to a decision reached at the meeting of the executive council of the Jordan General Federation of Voluntary Societies.

The meeting chaired by the council president, Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib and attended by representatives of voluntary societies in both banks of Jordan reviewed the council's annual report, and last year's budget. The current year's budget will be reviewed during the next council's meeting on April 4.

The council approved the federation plan for 1985 which sets its priorities on social care for the needy and support of a campaign for the collection of clothes and other items from the well-off to be distributed to the needy.

The council also decided to

adopt the "voluntary loan" projects which will give loans to societies working in the fields of the handicapped, to the University of Jordan Cancer Treatment Centre, to the "elderly village" project, to the establishment of a centre for the multi-handicapped and to the study of the establishment of a non-profit making university.

The council also decided to increase its support to voluntary societies in the West Bank and allotted funds to handicapped care centres in the occupied territories.

The council decided to participate in the Jordanian industrial and agricultural exhibition due to be held on June 10, and called on all voluntary societies to participate at the exhibition.

The council studied preparations for the "social day" due to be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein on April 10.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree approves accord with Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing a cabinet approval of an agreement signed by Jordan and Egypt on cooperation in manpower movement and employment. The agreement was reached during a visit to Egypt in January by Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani.

Team leaves for Arab-Greek talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian economic delegation left for Athens Saturday to take part in an Arab-Greek economic conference scheduled to begin Monday. On the agenda of the three-day conference are Arab-Greek economic cooperation and the possibility of setting up joint industrial projects. Taking part in the conference, called for by the Arab-Greek Chamber of Commerce and the Arab League, are Arab delegations representing the public and private sectors. The eight-member Jordanian delegation is led by Jordanian Ambassador in Athens Awwad Al Khaldi.

Ministry prepares for exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Bashir has set up a preparatory committee to prepare for the ministry's participation in the Royal Jordanian Agricultural Exhibition scheduled to be held at the University of Jordan farm in the Jordan Valley on April 17. Taking part in the week-long exhibition will be the Agricultural Products Merchants Association, the university's Faculty of Agriculture and the Agricultural Engineers Association. The exhibition will include materials used in agricultural production such as fertilisers and pesticides in addition to drip-irrigation equipment, plastic materials and seeds.

Minister inaugurates 4,000-line electronic telephone exchange

ZARQA (Petra) — The government aims to provide telephone services to all homes in Jordan, according to Minister of Communication Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben.

Dr. Zaben was speaking after the opening ceremony of the 4,000-line electronic telephone exchange Saturday at the town of Russeifa.

The exchange is expandable to 10,000 lines while the telephone network at the town has a capacity for handling 20,000 subscribers. The exchange building houses the exchange itself, a microwave processor, air conditioning and offices.

The Russeifa exchange is connected with the Zarqa exchange through a microwave link and a co-axial cable link together provide 750 telephone channels.

The project's total cost amounted to JD 1.8 million financed by the JD 46 million French loan

that is being used to finance the country's telecommunications modernisation scheme.

The town has already 3,500 applications for telephone subscription, 300 of which were connected immediately at the opening ceremony while 1,000 will be connected within the coming few weeks.

The new exchange features a number of characteristics including an over-the-telephone conference facility, a storage capacity for 20 telephone numbers, transfer of telephone calls and the capability of screening telephone calls.

The ceremony was attended by Amman Governor Turki Hindawi, Telecommunication Corporation Director-General Mohammad Shahid Ismael, Zarqa District-Governor Mohammad Dibi and a number of other government officials.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan opens the fourth Conference on the History of Bilad Al Sham at the University of Jordan Saturday (Petra photo)

Jordan's transportation infrastructure working in full capacity, minister says

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian transportation infrastructure is working in full capacity, signalling an end to the state of stagnation that characterised the transportation sector in Jordan for the past three years, Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid said Saturday.

Mr. Obeid also told reporters during a press conference at the Ministry of Transport that the new land-sea link facility between Aqaba Port and Nouaibeh Port in Egypt will offer easy transportation between the two countries and will start functioning as of April 25.

"This new land-sea link has gained special importance due to the touristic, strategic and economic aspects it will offer once it starts functioning."

The minister added that such a link will allow Jordanians to go on special trips to Egypt and other North African countries as well as North Africans coming over to Jordan.

He added that the Ministry of Transport and the government were aware "of the state of stagnation the transportation sector was going through, therefore immediate measurements were taken to solve such a crisis."

"Jordan has signed different transportation agreements with Iraq and Egypt which will help the transportation sector to revive its strength and provide job opportunities for transportation companies and concerned individuals."

The minister added that three

agreements were arranged with the Iraqi government which stipulate the transportation of crude oil to Brazil via Aqaba Port with the help of local transportation facilities. The other two agreements deal with Iraq exporting cement to Egypt through Aqaba as well as exporting two and a half million tonnes of wheat to Iraq through Jordan.

The Jordanian government has agreed with local associations to export 88 million eggs to neighbouring countries which will require the need of 105 refrigerated trucks and which will support these trucks that had to stop for a period of time, the minister said.

He added that the Ministry of Transport is in need of 400 trucks to transport crude oil and that a special agreement was signed with West Germany for the purchase of 300 trucks for this purpose.

However, there are currently 10,500 trucks 4,000 of which have Jordanian licence, with Jordanian plates. 5,000 trucks that are originally Jordanian owned but carry different Arab plates and around 1,500 trucks that are owned by Jordanian-Iraqi Transport Company, the Jordanian-Syrian Transport Company and various other local companies, the minister said.

He added that a study recently conducted by the Ministry of Transport revealed that the Aqaba Port needs between 300 to 500 trucks daily more than the trucks that already exist, because of the increase in the size of exports through Aqaba Port.

"Such indicators prove that the crisis of transportation has been

solved, but the ministry is cautious not to repeat the same mistakes of the past years," the minister says. He added that the government has also encouraged the neighbouring countries to import their goods through Jordan on a transit basis which will offer more facilities.

He added that there are currently 1,200 oil tankers that are transporting fuel oil and diesel oil from Iraq to Aqaba where they are exported to other countries.

The minister also said that the Jordanian government is conducting a feasibility study to attract Jordanian owned trucks that have foreign plate numbers to convert to Jordanian plate numbers.

Swiss scholar's photographs throw in-depth light on Bilad Al Sham

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

The Swiss scholar Max van Berchem spent most of his professional life in the four decades around the turn of the century painstakingly documenting different aspects of the history of the Arab Near East, particularly Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Egypt.

This week, an exhibition of 125 of his photographs at the University of Jordan library, running in conjunction with the Fourth International Conference on Bilad El-Sham, offers a rare opportunity to appreciate Max van Berchem's outstanding work.

This is the first time that works from his vast archives have been put on public display in the Arab World. The 125 prints are only a small fraction of the 5,000 photographs that Max van Berchem took in the Arab Near East, mostly between 1888 and 1895. The exhibition, entitled "A Swiss Scholar in Bilad El-Sham", remains open to the public until the end of this month.

It is composed of handsome photographs of monuments and some natural scenes of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, the Jordan River, Amman, Ajlun, Salt, Shobak, Kerak, Umm al-Qasr, Amman, Ramla, Nabulus, Sabastiya, Jenin, Tiberias, Hebron, Damascus and other sites in the land of Greater Syria.

It is appropriate that such quality scholarship from a pioneering European orientalist should go on display for the first time in the Arab World during the Bilad El-Sham conference, which is one of Jordan's modern success stories in the field of disciplined, honest and diligent scholarship.

The Swiss scholar Max van Berchem was born in Geneva in 1863, and made his first trip to the Middle East in 1886, when he travelled to Cairo as a doctoral student. There, he recognised the value of documenting Cairo's ancient monuments through photography, and of gleaning information from the many Arabic inscriptions that graced public and private monuments throughout the Arab east.

Between 1886 and 1895, he and fellow scholars from Switzerland, France and Germany methodically photographed the cities of the area, made notes, maps and plans, and copied hundreds of inscriptions. He laid the foundation for the monumental *Corpus Inscriptionum Arabicarum*, but during his lifetime he published only two volumes on the inscriptions of Jerusalem and Cairo.

He died in 1921, leaving behind a body of original research consisting of photographs, squeezes of inscriptions, notes, descriptions, letters and other documents.

Half a century later, his daughter Marguerite Gautier-van Berchem (a scholar on Islamic art in her own right, who worked with K.A.C. Creswell on the studies of the mosaics of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and the Great Mosque of Damascus), would turn her attention again to her father's

No world history complete without study on Bilad Al Sham, Hassan says

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday opened the fourth conference on the History of Bilad Al Sham at the University of Jordan.

"The history of Bilad Al Sham is part of the human history... and no the insight knowledge of world history is possible without a thorough study of the history of this area," he said.

"He said that the Prophet Mohammad had the vision to send his companions from Mecca to the north towards Bilad Al Sham because he believed in the historical and demographical bonds between the Arabs of the Arabian peninsula and Arabs of greater Syria."

Prince Hassan praised the role of sincere scholars, scientists and historians who gathered from all over the world to pursue and enrich the true knowledge of the past out of their belief in the unity of humanity's history and future.

Earlier University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali said that the conference is for the study of the history of a nation that presented a great civilisation to mankind. "A civilisation that had man as its focus, science as its emblem and faith as its bond."

Dr. Majali reviewed the historical events of the birth of Islam and briefly talked of the pre-Islamic period, the birth of the

Arab-Islamic state, the role of the caliph and the development of government in Islam.

He said that the conference is the fruitful result of cooperation between the University of Jordan and the University of Damascus.

He said that history is one of man's greatest sciences, "not just for the sake of documenting it but for the sake of reading through and making use of its trends and lessons."

Addressing the conference was also Dr. Adnan Bakheit, rapporteur of the University of Jordan's conferences committee who said the conference "is a continuing comprehensive scientific effort that grows into the future."

He pointed out the strategic importance of Bilad Al Sham especially in the history of Islam.

The conference, which will continue six days, is convened under the theme of "Bilad Al Sham in Early Islam."

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of ministers, members of parliament, senior government officials, and officials from the Universities of Yarmouk and Jordan.

The conference held two evening sessions Saturday. The first session was devoted to studies of early Arab conquest of Bilad Al Sham and the second focused on the attitude of Bilad Al Sham inhabitants towards the conquest.

Hassan inaugurates exhibitions

Prince Hassan also Saturday inaugurated three exhibitions, which coincided with the Bilad Al Sham conference.

A photo exhibition of religious and historical sites in the East and the West Bank of Jordan was organised by Max van Berchem Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland.

On display were photos representing mosques in Jerusalem, Nabulus, Hebron and other parts of Jordan and Palestine.

Later on Saturday, the Crown Prince inaugurated an exhibition organised by the Jordanian historian Arsalan Ramadan at the university library.

The exhibition, which is entitled "Features From My Country", contains a 108 photo representing life in Jordan.

Mr. Arsalan, who is a retired captain, told the Jordan Times that the Crown Prince has shown interest regarding the birds photos in the exhibition. "His Highness requested to include these photos in a special book on birds in Jordan", Mr. Arsalan said.



Mushatta, details of the decoration

response and travel writings.

The most lavish volume published to date is "Muslim Jerusalem in the work of Max van Berchem," published in 1982 in French and English versions. Some of the photographs of the holy monuments in Jerusalem's Al Haram esh-Sherif from that book are on display at the exhibition at the University of Jordan library.

Particularly striking are the close-ups of decorative details of the Dome of the Rock and the Aqsa Mosque.

The photographs are not only interesting for highlighting the beauty of Medieval Arab and Islamic architecture, but also provide glimpses of life in the closing decades of the last century.

Some of the close-ups of architectural and decorative details are particularly striking, such as the photographs of the Jar Mushatta decorative panels that were taken out of Jordan earlier this century and are now housed in a Berlin museum.

NOTICE TO ALL THOSE WITH CANADIAN CONNECTIONS

The Jordan Canada Friendship Society announces to all businessmen who have relations with Canada, to Canadian citizens residing in Jordan, to graduates of Canadian universities and others... that it is holding a get together Gala Dinner Party on Saturday night, March 23, 1985, at Al-Alaly Roof Ballroom/Regency Palace Hotel.

Those interested in attending are kindly requested to call the Treasurer Mr. George Twal Tel. 35164/ Amman by Thursday, March 21, 1985.

British dancers display elegance, flexibility

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Sarvath, Janet Smith and Dancers Company, one of Britain's most established and successful modern dance companies touring the world, gained the Jordanian's approval during their first show that was staged on Friday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman.

The company's reputation had arisen from Janet's belief that "a dance performance should be magical, mysterious, but not mystifying... In the end it must speak clearly."

This fact was clearly pointed out through the four different dances or pieces that were presented, noting that the show kept up a fast moving tempo that never slowed down.

"Miniatures", the first dance presented was set to the music of Stravinsky's suite number one and two. It evoked the spirited atmosphere of a circus ring and in which the whole mood throughout these miniatures were a combination of cheerfulness and fun.

The dancers, the company, performed acrobatic movements with gracefulness, plasticity and professionalism. Nevertheless, the miniatures, were choreographed by Robert North, Janet's husband,

who also directs the Ballet Rambert.

The set and costumes, designed by Andrew Storer which were inspired by the paper cutouts of Marlene who is an impressionistic artist, evoked the spirited atmosphere of a circus ring.

The second dance, "Tom, Dick and Harry", choreographed by Mr. North, and based on the music of Howard Blake, pointed out the cycle of man's life.

Participating in this dance were: Philip Johnson as Everyman, Gill Clark as Good Time Sal, Janet Smith as Good Deeds, Ann Dewey as Worldly Deeds and Jean Walsh as Death.

The music of this piece enhanced every cycle of people's lives as it changed in rhythm and style according to the period of each cycle.

Even the costumes were a true reflection of people's life cycle. Everyman was wearing red trousers and a red shirt with a white jacket, Good Deeds wore a fanciful white dress, whereas, Worldly Deeds, the materialistic aspect in people's lives wore a pair of shorts and a shirt which were inspired from earthly colours especially that all sorts of brown paper bags were knitted onto her shirt. This intum was contrasted with Death, who wore a black outfit that made the idea of death glo-

omy. However, the general mood and setting of this dance proved to be extremely effective, especially that light effects were accompanied with the entrance of each character in a different physical appearance.

Reflections, the company's third piece, was performed by Ann Dewey and Philip Johnston. It was originally choreographed for Ballet Rambert in 1976 and later adapted for Janet Smith and Dancers.

This piece is set to music from Howard Blake's string quartet.

Reflections, a very romantic and touchy sentimental dance reflects any love affair between a couple with the ups and downs of such an affair.

Ann was extremely flexible, graceful and romantic in complete harmony with the movements of Philip.

The graceful costumes of reflections, the dim provocative lights and the mellow music created the most relaxing atmosphere that really captured the audience's breath.

Their last dance, Another Man Drowning, which was a series of dance sketches, was inspired by the paintings and city landscapes of L.S. Lowry, a British realistic artist.

These sketches combined the

ironic humour and gritty resilience typical of a north country life. Janet Smith's choreography, which was drawn from every day events, portrayed a man whose humdrum life goes all wrong. These sketches, used effective techniques which created the image of a rough sea with ebbs and flows.

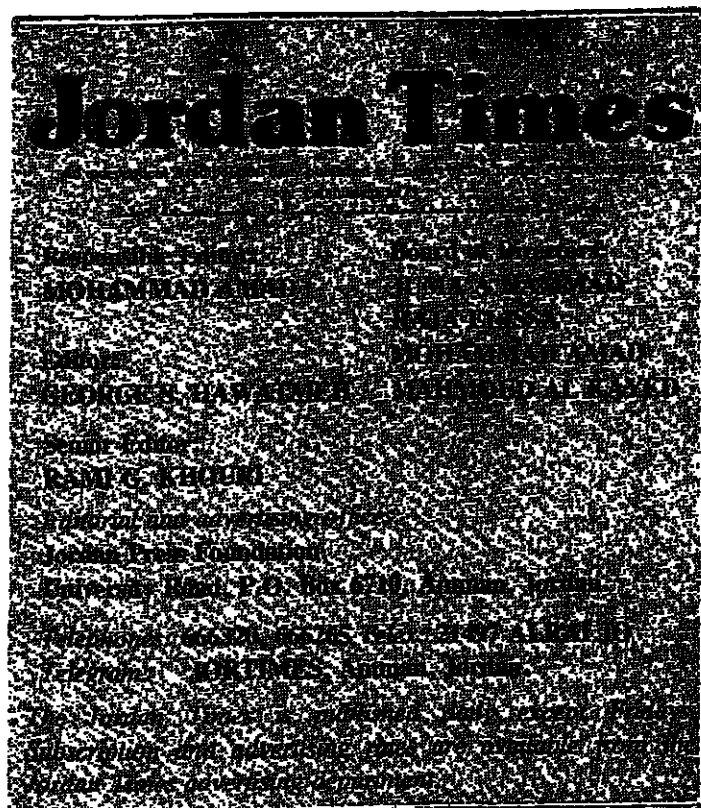
This effect was done through using a long piece of white cloth which was waved by the group to the effects of light dim floodlights, and gave the many different interiors their right feel.

An innovative aspect was a monologue carried out by Jean Walsh, the man whose humdrum life goes all wrong, reflected his state of desperate love. He is in love, but the girl never listens to him. He thinks he is unique, but to his surprise meets an identical man to him who was wearing the same clothes. And all these incidents would only reflect the dilemma of modern man.

At the end, Janet says "I wonder if someday this sea keeps going on and on..." while the company shook the white cloth representing the sea, lined next to each other and the stage dimmed turned black and the show ended.

Janet Smith and Dancers Show was organised by the British Council in Amman in cooperation with RCC. The two-day show ended Saturday.

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Air that's not clear yet

MIDDLE EAST specialists are divided on the outcome of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit to Washington this week. While some of them view President Reagan's response to Mr. Mubarak's proposal for reviving Middle East peace talks as an unmistakable rebuff, others think of it otherwise. There are reservations, perhaps. Hesitation, yes. But not a rejection of the Egyptian proposal. Here is some of what two Egyptian leaders said on the subject only yesterday.

The prime minister, Mr. Kamal Hassan Ali, admitting that the U.S. does in fact have some reservations about receiving a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, said that these "reservations stem from (American) fear that opponents of the Jordan-PLO accord may block any progress and subsequently expose the U.S. Mideast policy to another setback."

Mr. Osama Al Baz, Mr. Mubarak's foreign policy adviser, was more forthcoming. He told the Cairo newspaper Al Gomhuria that the U.S. is seriously considering the Egyptian peace proposal and has not rejected it. And, anyway, Washington "has no business" vetoing participation of the PLO in peace talks, he said.

What do we, here in Jordan and others elsewhere, believe? That Washington is in fact still asking about the identity of the delegation, what will follow the dialogue and whether there are any preconditions for it, as Dr. Baz said. Or that the U.S. first wants to ensure that the dialogue can be guaranteed to produce more rounds that would deal with substantive questions and involve Israel.

Surely what the Egyptian prime minister had in mind does not convey the whole picture of the U.S. position, although it brings up an important point. But does Washington really think that its best strategic interests can be served by playing to the tune of the opponents of the Jordan-PLO accord, for it to have the "reservations" it seems to have about President Mubarak's proposal? And, if so, what do we learn from the Egyptians about the American position so far?

Maybe there is no clear-cut answer as yet. But things are likely to unfold as we go along. When the foreign minister, Mr. Taher Al Masri, goes to Washington next week, he will no doubt have a number of important questions to ask his American hosts. Washington will send an envoy, Mr. Richard Murphy, to the area soon afterwards. He too will be expected to inform us exactly of what his government thinks. In the end it is not only the momentum for peace that has to be kept going. It is the expectation that some solid results will be achieved, and soon, that has to materialise.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Countering attempts

ISRAELI FOREIGN Minister Yitzhak Shamir, now on a visit to Canada, has renewed a call to that country to transfer its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Israel made another similar appeal to Canada last year and had it not been for the Arab efforts then, the Ottawa government would have succumbed to the Israeli wishes.

It seems that Israel continues to knock on the doors of different countries at different times to present its demands or requests, and it is no doubt exploiting the current deadlock in peace efforts and the U.S. administration's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East region.

The transfer of embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem means creating a new de facto situation by which the Zionists can guarantee a recognition for their practices and measures in the occupied territories especially the annexation of the Arab city of Jerusalem, making the city Israel's capital.

Since Jerusalem forms the core of the Palestine issue and in view of Israel's repeated and desperate attempts to ensure acquire recognition of the city as Israel's capital, the Arab nation is called on to act now and with great urgency to thwart these attempts. The Arab countries can begin their work by transcending their differences and working out a joint strategy that would ensure meaningful action on the international arena.

Al Dustour: Serving Israel's ends

THE PRESENT rift in the ranks of the Falangist party in Lebanon is very serious indeed and far exceeds inter-party disputes. The party's rebel militia has been demanding the Lebanese government to take a different political course, and above all seeking to reestablish relations with Israel. Thus the dissidents' actions are designed to turn back the hands of the clock backward and involve Lebanon once again in another civil strife. The rebellion can be described as like rowing the boat against the current — the current of national movement in a country which has suffered a great deal at the hands of the Israeli invaders. This rebellion is designed to take away Lebanon from its natural environment and present it as a gift to the Israelis or as a reward for its invasion. The rift in the party's cadres is surely the work of Israel, which stands to benefit from it and from any other dissension in Lebanon.

If the rebellion is allowed to go on and to succeed, then there will be no hope for national reconciliation in Lebanon, nor will ever be a national government capable of restoring peace and stability. The elders of Lebanon and the heads of the rightwing and leftist parties are now called on to exert their efforts to overcome this crisis which emerged as Lebanon's enemy is being driven out of the country in shame.

Sawt Al Saab: Intriguing behaviour

ARAB POLITICIANS and observers have tried in vain to find a logical and rational explanation of the American political behaviour towards the Middle East issue. Over the years, the United States have been supporting Israel's actions. We realise that politics are completely independent from sentiments or feelings and a country's political stand is normally dictated by its national interests; but in trying to apply this hypothesis to the American stand, the Arabs have been unable to find a solution, because Washington's behaviour is really puzzling, and its total support for Israel with disregard to its own national interest is something impossible to explain.

Over the years, the Arabs were hoping against hope that one day the American administration will be brought back to its senses and will adjust its stand, and then it can play a balanced role in the Middle East issue. But unfortunately, American policies have been going from bad to worse in terms of relations with the Arab countries, and Washington has been adopting more and more extreme views that totally contradict justice and are hostile to our stand and our aspirations.

Political observers have failed to find a rational explanation for this American attitude. But these observers have been more puzzled by the Arab countries' attitude. Many of these countries, though they have realised Washington's attitude, are unable to come together and adopt a common strategy to deal with it. This illogical Arab behaviour is indeed more difficult to explain or understand.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Arthur Laffer's recommended policies challenged

By Fahed Fartek

IN OUR first article about Arthur Laffer (J.T., March 3), we tried to introduce the controversial American economist to the Jordanian readership, and highlight the prominent position he occupies in the political and economic arenas, being one of the founding fathers of the so called "Reaganomics", as a branch of supply-side economics.

In our second article (J.T. March 10), we presented a range of the top ideas and policies that this outspoken economist stood for in recent years. We also projected his famous curve, known as Laffer's Curve, which influenced the current economic thought

in America.

Today we shall make an attempt to look at Laffer's recommended policies from an opposite direction, and touch on some challenges that he may be confronted with from politicians and economists alike:

1. Laffer claimed that the reduction in tax rates will immediately enhance the overall economic activity and increase the tax proceeds. Well, President Reagan put this hypothesis into test by his famous tax cuts. It may be argued that this major step may have been responsible for the present strong economic recovery in

the United States, and the corresponding reduction in unemployment. But, it definitely did not reduce the deficit in the Federal budget, which soared to over two hundred billion dollars in fiscal 1984. This deficit is one of the major drawbacks of Reaganomics. It is causing worry not in America only but in Europe as well and all over the world. It may be responsible for the high interest in real terms and the rise of the dollar against other currencies out of proportions.

2. Laffer claimed that the return to the gold standard, and making the dollar as good as gold, is the only sure way to reduce interest rate and, con-

trols inflation, and consequently have a stable, growing economy. Well, all these desired ends are now achieved in America without the return to the gold standard. A growing number of monetarists and bankers strongly reject, and even ridicule, the notion to return to the gold standard.

3. The flat rate income tax called for by Arthur Laffer, such as 15 per cent across the board, irrespective of the income bracket of each individual tax payer, is obviously a windfall to those who have, and a huge burden on those who have not. Laffer's line of thinking goes contrary to the

well-established taxation principle of justice, whereby the government will tax people in accordance with their ability to pay. On the other hand, the idea could not be put into practice due to political and social objections. The simplification of the tax system is of course beneficial (except to lawyers and accountants), but the implementation of a flat rate tax has no chance of implementation. It is a policy that cannot be sold in the real world.

4. Finally we have to point out what Laffer's opponents repeatedly assert that there is nothing new in Laffer's Curve.

The phenomenon is well known to economists. Keynes noticed, half a century ago, that excessive taxation leads to reduction of proceeds. A shopkeeper knows that if he overcharges his customers, he will reduce his sales and profits. An economist wrote recently in "Business week" that Laffer's Curve does not even belong to the supply-side economics!

Let us hope that we shall hear from Dr. Arthur Laffer here in Amman, after we heard about him a lot from very far away, and that his cancelled visit to Amman will be rescheduled soon.

Ghosts everywhere in South Lebanon for Israeli soldiers

By Scheherezade Faramarzi
Associated Press

JASMIYEH RIVER BRIDGE, Lebanon — Amir, Afi and Moses — three Israeli soldiers at the Jasmiyeh Bridge at the Israeli front line — were mainly concerned Friday with keeping their heads down and counting the days until they go home.

"It's very dangerous every night," Moses said. He recounted how in a month of guarding this bridge over the Litani River, the northern point of Israel's occupation zone, he and his friends had come under almost nightly attack.

The three were all from Haifa in Israel. They were covered with dust, unshaven and looked tired. Only three hours before they spoke, the soldiers had been attacked by mortars and machine guns from north of the river. Even as they spoke the sound of a heavy explosion came from a nearby Israeli position to the east.

"That was a mortar," said Moses, a reservist like his two friends and a house painter when not on duty. He stood on the coastal road between earthen embankments which partially conceal Israeli armoured personnel carriers and trucks.

Several tents have been erected within the Israeli base and nearer the river, a 15-foot ridge of earth has been pushed up from which Israeli soldiers can shoot northwards across the river.

"I have been here a month and

have only 11 days to go," said Amir, 26, a chauffeur in civilian life.

"In 20 days I'm getting married," he said, adding his girl is 19. She is a soldier too, in Israel. Amir said he had no contact with his fiancée. "I can't call her, there are no telephones. I can't even wash here," he added holding out his dust-covered hands and pointing at his soiled uniform shirt.

"I feel dirty. When I want to wash, I have to go to the Al-Bas camp and when I go there all the rooms are full of soldiers sleeping," Amir said.

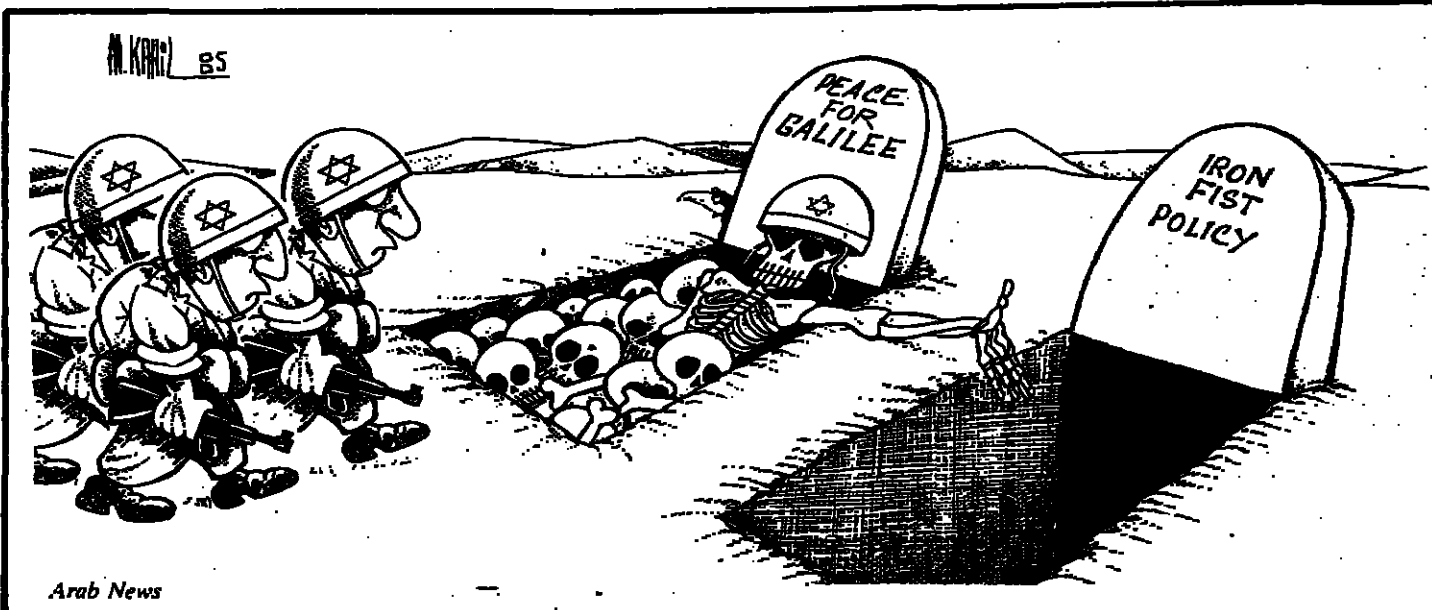
He referred to an Israeli camp in the Al-Bas neighbourhood of Tyre which, ironically, also houses a camp for Palestinian refugees that fled Israel at various times since the founding of Israel in 1948 on what previously had been Palestine.

Two missiles were fired at the Israeli camp in Al Bas about eight kilometres south of Kassieh bridge. Thursday night from the seafront boulevard in the port city of Tyre about two kilometres southwest of the camp.

In Tyre, the two rockets could be seen being launched from a seafront road, their tails burning with red light, and the sound of two detonations were heard from the Al Bas camp a few seconds later.

Israeli guards immediately fired a short burst of machine gun fire towards the sea for some unexplained reason.

Friday morning, an Israeli gun-



Arab News

boat cruised close offshore while Israeli troops cordoned off a section of the seafloor, apparently to look for clues to where the rockets were fired. They were seen searching through an unfinished nine-story building at least 500 yards from the site of the attack.

Such explosions and gunfire are nightly sounds and sights in Tyre, Lebanon's southernmost port 26 kilometres north of the Israeli border, as the Israelis come under almost continual attack despite a harsh campaign aimed at resistance guerrillas.

More than 630 Israeli soldiers have been killed in Lebanon since Israel's June 6, 1982, invasion according to Israeli estimates. Earlier this week, two soldiers were killed in an ambush on the Jasmiyeh Bridge.

"Those who died were my friends," Amir said. "It happens every night. They fire with every kind of weapon from north of the bridge."

Afi, a house painter like Moses, was asked about what had happened to the Israeli army since it succeeded in dislodging the Palestine Liberation Organisation fighters from the area in its 1982 invasion.

"It's a disaster," he said. "We have a problem here. We beat the PLO. We now have the Shiite problem. It's a bigger problem. They use suicide bombers. The danger is that we are not fighting an army. We are fighting guerrillas who attack us from everywhere. They throw bombs at us from behind walls."

The three soldiers carried Galil assault rifles, strapped round their shoulders and rested their arms on the barrels.

As reporters crossed the Israeli front line at the bridge over the Litani River, several soldiers

waved goodbye. There was an iron gate at one end of the bridge. There were no troops beside the gate.

"You can open the gate yourself," shouted one Israeli soldier. The reporters moved a coil of barbed wire from the road on the northern side of the bridge.

Another Israeli soldier, unlike the friendly three who had chatted with reporters, cursed the journalists as they went on their way. A mile further on, Lebanese soldiers checked the reporters' identification and waved them through on the coast road to Beirut.

Greek Communist Party sides with Socialists in presidential elections

By Kerin Hope
Associated Press

ATHENS — Greece's Communist Party (KKE) sided with the ruling Socialists on a major issue for the first time Tuesday, pledging to back supreme court judge Christos Sartzetakis for president in parliamentary elections Sunday.

The decision by the KKE makes Mr. Sartzetakis' election as head of state a near-certainty, and it raises the possibility of future cooperation between the Communists and Premier Andreas Papandreu's PanHellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK).

National elections are due to be held by November, when the Socialists' four-year term runs out.

"The KKE has decided to support the election of Mr. Sartzetakis to the office of president, believing that this underlines its support for the replacement of Mr. Caramanlis and procedures for revising the constitution," a central committee announcement said.

The Socialists took a turn to the

left last weekend by adopting Mr. Sartzetakis as their candidate instead of the incumbent, President Constantine Caramanlis, a firm supporter of close ties with the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The abrupt reversal of Mr. Papandreu's plan to back Mr. Caramanlis for a second five-year term took the country by surprise. The president was believed to exercise a restraining influence on Mr. Papandreu, both on domestic issues and on Greek-American relations, currently tense because of Mr. Papandreu's anti-American rhetoric.

The Socialists also approved radical changes in the 1975 constitution, masterminded by Mr. Caramanlis, which would make the president a figurehead and transfer his powers to the ruling party.

Mr. Caramanlis resigned to protest the proposed revisions, which were presented to parliament on Monday.

Sources close to Mr. Caramanlis said he regarded them as "dangerous" for political stability.

PASOK sources said Mr. Caramanlis, 77, was rejected unanimously by the party's 140-member central committee after "a clear message from the grass roots that the Caramanlis era is over."

Analysts here say the decision to discard Mr. Caramanlis represents a victory for Marxist radicals over moderates in the party, and a commitment to more sweeping social and political reform. The Communists, who have 12 seats in the 300-member parliament, welcomed the departure of Mr. Caramanlis as "a victory for democratic change, which, with KKE help, could lead to political developments on the road to progress."

In the past, the Communists have lashed out at Mr. Papandreu for failing to carry out his radical policies, such as pulling Greece out of NATO and seeking the removal of nuclear weapons from Greece.

However, the KKE has refrained from open confrontation with the government.

Mr. Sartzetakis, 56, from the northern city of Salonika, is re-

spected by Greeks from all political backgrounds.

As a young magistrate he investigated a 1963 political killing in which a left-wing deputy, Gregory Lambrakis, died in a road accident engineered by right-wing extremists. The case inspired the internationally successful film "Z".

During Greece's seven-year military dictatorship, Mr. Sartzetakis was tortured and jailed for a year without charges.

He was reinstated after democracy was restored in 1974. He became an appeal court judge in 1982.

With support from the KKE and PASOK's 165 deputies, Mr. Sartzetakis is assured of 177 out of the 180 votes needed for election in the third and final ballot in the 300-member parliament. A two-thirds majority is needed on the first and second ballots.

Analysts say at least three and probably more of the 11 independents in the house will back his candidacy.

The conservative opposition New Democracy Party, which controls 112 seats, has decided to cast blank ballots in the election.

State elections draw new lines for Gandhi

By John Fullerton
Reuters

NEW DELHI — The results of India's state elections have posed new challenges for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who took office only four months ago after his mother Indira Gandhi was assassinated.

Two-thirds of the 380 million people eligible to vote in the 11 participating states and the union territory of Pondicherry gave India's youngest leader an impressive mandate in the populous and mainly Hindi-speaking northern and central areas.

But his opponents, badly mauled in last December's national elections, put up a tough fight and staged a revival in some states.

"Democracy is alive and kicking in India," poll analyst Pranoy Roy said on television. He said voters had appreciated a dis-

inction between national and local election issues.

In Maharashtra, Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party scraped home after a close contest, while the Congress (I) majority was reduced in its traditional bastion of northern Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Gandhi's failure to make inroads in three opposition-ruled states underlined the importance of the often strained relationship between the central government in Delhi and the administrations of the country's 22 states, analysts said.

"Much of the electorate seems to have rejected the Congress (I)'s argument that rule by the same party at the centre and in the states is essential for economic progress," said an editorial in the independent Statesman newspaper.

Mr. Gandhi campaigned for December's national elections by appealing to people to vote for

strong leadership in the face of separatist violence at home and threats from abroad.

For its part, the fragmented opposition failed to unite on a national level.

The result was unprecedented. Mr. Gandhi was swept back to power with 401 of the 503 parliamentary constituencies at stake.

But despite his personal campaign visits to southern Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for the local voting, held on March 2 and 5, both opposition state administrations reinforced their rule.

Ramakrishna Hegde, suffering from ill-health, staged a surprise political comeback in Karnataka and won an absolute majority for his Janata Party.

Mr. Hegde, who enjoys a favourable image as one of India's most skilled politicians, has emphasised clean government during his two years' rule and pressed

ahead with local development projects in the state.

In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao, a former film star, was reaffirmed as an opposition leader of national stature when he won the three seats he personally contested.

In December's general elections, Rama Rao's regional Telugu Desam Party emerged as the largest single opposition group in parliament. In the state poll, it won a two-thirds majority.

Rama Rao champions the identity of his Telugu-speaking people and has called for greater financial aid from central government to help to improve the state economy.

"But Gandhi has already shown himself to be adaptable," said one Indian analyst. "Strong local sentiment from voters at state level will not be lost on him in mapping out his political strategy."

LAI HUMAN I



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ANNOUNCEMENT

MAAN WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT CONTRACT 39/85/MN2

Water Authority of Jordan announces to those contractors who had purchased the tender document No. 39/85/MN2 of Maan Water and Sewerage Project the following:

- 1-A site visit will take place on Tuesday 19/3/1985, so concerned contractors are asked to assemble at the Water Authority's Branch in Maan between 10-11 a.m.
- 2-The bid bond is JD 25,000 instead of JD 50,000 as stated in page B6-I Volume I.
- 3-Addendum No. 2 will be available on Saturday 23/3/85 containing all answers submitted in the prebid conference and the site visit.

Eng. M.S. Kilani
President
Water Authority

WATER AUTHORITY

Baq'a treatment plant contract No. GA1/37/85
Wadi Essir treatment plant contract No. GA2/38/85

The Water Authority announces for contractors and firms who have bought copies of tender documents of the above contracts that:

- 1-The bids will be due on 16/4/1985 at 12:00 noon instead of 2/4/1985 for both contracts.
- 2-Addendum No. 4 is now available for both contracts at the Water Authority office.

President
Eng. M.S. Kilani
Water Authority

Plays in English attract more audiences?

By Sama Attieh

Special to the Jordan Times

A CONTROVERSIAL issue that is currently becoming topical in Jordan is the Arabic vs. English-spoken plays performed in theatre here. Apparently, the English-spoken plays are much more successful than the Arabic ones, despite the fact that performances in Arabic is usually done professionally. The Jordan Times interviewed several people (both Jordanian and foreign) involved in the theatrical profession here in Jordan.

Hisham Yanis, a professional Jordanian writer and actor is not happy with the public's attitude towards theatre. He definitely agrees that English-spoken drama gathers a lot more audience than Arabic plays. He took part in an Arabic play recently at the Royal Theatre, "The Choice", which he wrote and acted; and he was very disappointed with the public feedback. He only had up to 20 to 30 people a night for 10 days, and therefore the play obviously lost money. Mr. Yanis recently went to see the English musical play "Oliver" by the Royal Cultural Theatre, performed at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC); and to his surprise, the theatre was fully booked with a large and interested audience of the upper-middle class. When asked why, in his opinion, "Oliver" attracted a larger audience than his professional play, he said that Jordan has turned into an English-speaking community, and that the Arabic language is done away with. According to Mr. Yanis, this is a class problem: the English-speaking Jordanians are a class. A main reason for "Oliver's" success is because of the Royal Patronage: This in itself pulls a large number of the upper-middle and upper classes of Jordan to see the play. He believes that Royal Patronage helps when bestowed on Arabic plays.

On the other hand, Mr. Yanis thinks that Arabic art in general is not competitive because it is not yet sufficiently developed. "Jordanians are not theatre" oriented people — they are not trained to appreciate a meaningful and thoughtful play," Mr. Yanis complained. "They have to be dragged to the theatre."

"However, people will more likely see an entertaining play like 'Oliver' than see a serious play where one has to think and read between the lines. Jordanians feel they have too many problems already, and they don't want to see a play that makes them think. But a play to enjoy. But theatre is culture. I could write and perform a superficial and thoughtless play, and make a clown of myself to make lots of money... but that is against my principles."

Another important reason for the unpopularity of Arabic theatre, according to Mr. Yanis, is that the government totally neglects the theatre, and no one finances the plays. The Department of Art and Culture has no money for local productions, so the writers, actors, directors, etc., are left completely alone to work. Also, theatre has a limited freedom of expression, and Mr. Yanis feels that theatre needs freedom, and an appropriate atmosphere must be created. (His play "The Choice" was totally approved by the censorship, however.) Mr. Yanis believes that the Jordanian theatre needs backing, financially and morally, to be able to succeed.

Jordanian play director Sawwan Darwazah is currently working on an American play "Aria da Capo" by Edna St. Vincent Millay. Asked why she chose to direct an English-language play rather than an Arabic one, she replied, "I want to attract a larger audience." Miss Darwazah has already directed a serious but entertaining Arabic play, "City Without Love," which finished a month ago. The play was performed for three weeks at the studio section of the RCC which seats 150 to 200 people. But she only received an average of 50 to 60 people a night, even though a large sum of money was spent on promotion. The RCC also contributed the necessary facilities for this Arabic production, but the play still did not receive as much of an audience as it should have. Miss Darwazah agrees with Mr. Yanis that Jordanians are not theatre-oriented people and that they can only be dragged to see a play by force and especially a local one.

She has seen the success of "Oliver" and she comments: "I was much upset to see that so many Jordanians would show up at an English and amateur play rather than watch a professional Arabic one. And it was obvious to see that for many, to go to the RCC to see an English play is a social event to show off their class. 'People aren't really interested in theatre as an art: it is all pretence,'" says Miss Darwazah, who hopes to attract a larger audience with the American play she is working on; whereas, at the same time, she would like to have an audience interested in the art, not in the "show off".

According to Jordan Times col-

umnist Marwan Muasher, "Oliver" brought in the majority of a minority (the foreigners), and the minority of a majority (the Jordanians). He also believes that Jordanians in general are not theatre-oriented people.

Mr. Muasher went to see "Oliver" because of "my personal interest in theatre, and because I heard so much about it." But he has not seen an Arabic play recently because he has been out of the country. He adds, "If Arabic plays are like those we see on TV, I don't want to see them. There isn't an atmosphere and it is the government's duty to create one."

There is a general impression among Jordanian theatre goers that Arabic plays are "bad", and this is partly justified. The mere fact that a playwright writes with the ghost of censorship in mind does not allow the writer or artist to use his full imagination and reduces artistic ability. If the right atmosphere for creation continues to lack, we will never advance culturally," Mr. Muasher also blames the "educated" Jordanians for not leading the public interest in theatre. "If they don't lead, who will?"

Apparently, Mr. Muasher is at the moment writing and working on an Arabic play, a serious comedy, to be performed by a young amateur Jordanian group. Mr. Johnny Snobar, also one of the audience of "Oliver," says this was the first play he ever saw in Jordan. Even though he is interested in theatre in general, he is not encouraged by theatre here. (He is used to good, professional theatre from England). The reason he went to see "Oliver" is because he heard so much about it, and because he had friends working in the play. When asked whether he would see an Arabic play, he replied that he would not if the quality is the same as that presented on TV. Mr. Snobar comments, "The TV shows very little efficient stuff and gives a bad impression on Arabic art. Even though the talent is probably there, it is not presented properly on the TV screen, so it is not encouraging to go and see local theatre."

Vanessa Batrouni, director,



Hisham Yanis and Abeer Issa in "The Choice"

This is the second play Mrs. Batrouni has done in Jordan... the first was another musical "You're a Goodman, Charlie Brown," which also was a great success. She believes that plays that involve children are more likely to succeed because children like to see children's plays. She also believes that musicals attract the audience because not only does the public want to be entertained, but they do not need to understand English to enjoy the music. She, for example, enjoys Arabic musicals even though she may not understand what is said. Mrs. Batrouni feels that theatre is controlled by the audience. If it is serious and not commercial, the audience will most likely not show up. "This is a problem between commercialism and idealism in every art", she says, "people in general want to be entertained, they don't want to think". But she thinks that there is definitely a cultural crisis in Jordan, and the people are not aware of this crisis.

People here are family people and would rather be entertained at home by their TVs and videos rather than go out to the theatre. On the other hand, Mrs. Batrouni firmly believes that theatre should be encouraged rather than have a low budget and suffer for the belief that theatre is unimportant. "There should be more theatrical activity at the RCC, both local and imported, especially from neighbouring Arab countries. There should be theatre in the universities. And I feel that another centre should be opened downtown for the downtown people if they think they cannot come uptown. There is, after all, a big difference in Amman between uptown and downtown. Some people do not even realise that the RCC is open for all. Culture grows slowly, but there are the dedicated people who are trying hard to make the-

atre flourish in Jordan. It will flourish, but it will take time."

Miss Khulud Totah is the permanent stage manager at the RCC, and has been there for two years. During this time, eight plays have been performed there (including "Oliver"), three of which were in English, and the rest were in Arabic. She says the English ones attracted far more audience than the Arabic ones. In her opinion, one of the reasons for this is that the English ones spend a lot more on promotion, plus giving away complimentary tickets. Miss Totah strongly believes that "if Jordanians go to see an English play, they think it makes them look educated, and they can show off their class. They feel they cannot show off at an Arabic play, even though many of these plays, in my opinion, are very good."

Soviet air crew latest to sight UFO

By Rudolf Merget

MOSCOW — Professor Nikolai Sheltukhin, vice president of the Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) Commission in the Soviet Union, has invited his countrymen to make use of his special post office box and let him know details of any UFO sighting they make.

The invitation followed the observation of a UFO by the four-man crew of a Soviet Aeroflot TU-134-A aircraft in the early morning of Jan. 4.

The crew members said the object had followed their plane at great speed on its flight from Minsk to Tallinn, capital of the Soviet republic of Estonia.

Another two UFO sightings were registered in Europe during the first few weeks of this year. One report, from Prague observatory, said a UFO, brighter than the moon, had flown above the city in a southerly direction.

The other, from French police and customs officers near the Spa-

nish border, told of a UFO giving off red and green light signals for nearly one hour.

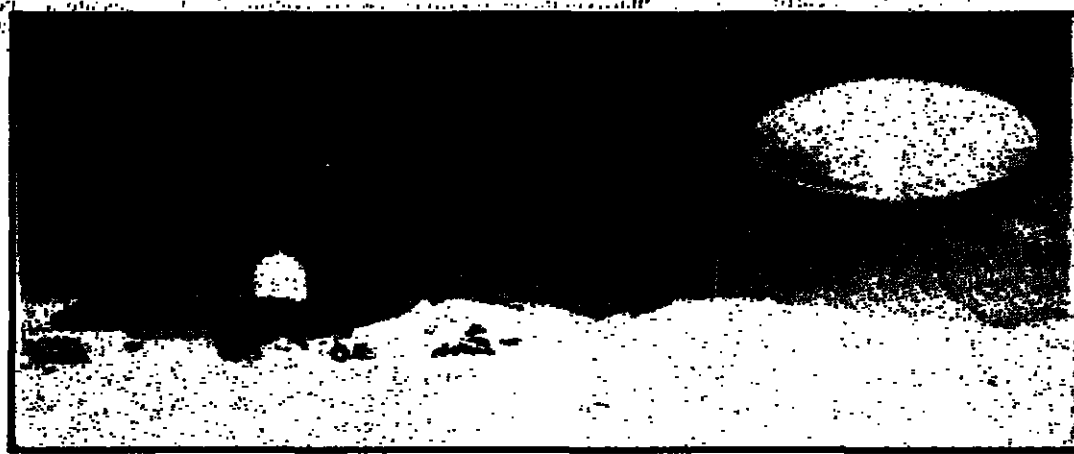
Sightings of UFOs have been reported in the United States at the rate of one or two a day for close to 40 years. Aircraft have often chased the flying saucers but never caught up with them.

Countless descriptions made of them have taken up the time of cabinet and parliamentary meetings and have even occupied the United Nations.

Scientists trying to track down the objects believed by some people to come from outer space, usually have found for them most terrestrial explanations.

Yet Erich von Daeiken, the Swiss author of best-sellers, and his wide readership are firm believers in "astronauts" from other planets who landed on earth in prehistoric times.

Other believers, more concerned about the future, are wondering whether some day flying saucers will actually land on earth and their crews take stock of our



civilisation.

The first convincing UFO sighting was made by Ken Arnold, a private pilot, on June 24, 1947, in the U.S. state of Washington. He reported having sighted nine huge luminous disks shaped like saucers above 4,391-meter-high Mount Rainier.

The same day Fred Johnson, a prospector for gold, saw the disks

over another section of the mountain.

Their observation set off a series of reports of the sighting of round or cigar-shaped UFOs. Many of those taking the reports seriously were convinced that June 24, 1947 was the day people from outer space discovered earth.

The U.S. Air Force in the late

sixties commissioned a study of 12,618 of these optical phenomena. The vast majority of observations could be explained scientifically, but 701 sightings remained unidentified.

The authors of the study said, however, that these, too, were optical delusions and reassured the public they did not threaten U.S. security — DPA.

Randa Habib's

Red, orange, green and go

IT SEEMS that when you feel depressed and tense you should immediately lie on your tummy, knees slightly raised, hands crossed on the belly and to inhale very slowly. This is what a doctor friend of mine told me.

All this is good but the fact is that depression comes usually when you are with people, among persons you like and others you like less and some you simply hate. Can you see yourself when feeling depressed starting to overwhelm you and when the red light of tension starts to blink in your head, just pushing tables, chairs and people aside and lying on your belly to start your breathing exercises?

It is a bit far fetched. You should make sure to be depressed only when you're at home, alone between four walls. A good old-fashioned depression.

As for the stress that you feel when you're among people, you should be able to handle it with what you've got. You could carry red, orange and green signs that you will use according to your moods. Then if the person sitting to your right talks into your ear, tells you things you do not want to hear and on top of that smells of garlic... you could take out the red sign and shove it under his nose signifying that he should stop this monkey business because it depresses you. Also when this friend starts to say those nasty poisonous and bitter-sweet comments and you feel your pulse starting to rise, your blood pressure to follow and you are on the verge of bursting with unbearable stress and tension... the orange sign you will show would be enough to say, "You should stop it because you're exceeding the limits." And when you're happy and relaxed (it can happen sometimes) with this pleasant companion with the charming smile, quickly, the green sign so that the charm goes on, and on, and on...

Soft living could sap Japanese youths' will to work hard

By Caroline Dale

Reuters

TOKYO — The Japanese are becoming worried that Western-style soft living could rob their youth of the will to work that created one of the world's richest nations.

The worry stems from the increasing numbers of Japanese in their teens and early twenties who bask in the whirl of discos, hamburger stands, ice-cream parlours, boutiques and similar joys of youth imported from the West.

The self-sacrificing work ethic of the older generation seems to find little sympathy among youngsters who knew nothing of the drab postwar years or the left-wing radicalism in the sixties.

"This lot are not going to knuckle down and do what is expected of ordinary men and women because they simply don't know what that is," Kazuhiko Kitamura, editor of Popeye, Japan's best-selling youth magazine, told Reuters in an interview.

Yet Japan is free of most of the social ills plaguing young people in the West. Heroin addiction, unemployment and racist violence are virtually unheard of.

Japan's second largest advertising agency, Hakuhodo, said in a recent study that Japan's 18 to 20 year-olds are passive, pleasure seekers, and unwilling to grow up. According to the study, 68.5 per cent of those polled said they live for pleasure, a selfish attitude by traditional Japanese standards.

"To understand today's kids you have to subtract 10 years from their real age," says novelist and social critic Saho Sasazawa.

Mr. Sasazawa started a forum for worried parents called "School for Youth", which now has more than 35,000 members, after his explosive essay on parent-child

relationships entitled "It Could Happen to you too" was published three years ago.

Mr. Sasazawa says he is concerned about youth's impatience, indecision, egocentrism, lack of will power and shunning of difficulties.

But many young Japanese shrug off the criticisms.

"Complaints about young people today in the media are only for show. Every new generation gets moaned about," 22-year-old Hiroshi Mukai told Reuters. He dropped out of school two years ago, lives at home and works selling clothes in a boutique.

Mr. Mukai said he and his friends want to be free to do what they want, but the trouble is they don't know what they want.

The Japan Recruit Centre, Japan's largest private employment agency, says the most sought after job for women leaving college is making television documentaries. For young men it's in the computer business.

"The young used to do what their teachers and parents wanted but their aspirations have changed," said the centre's Norihiko Watanabe.

He said the most significant social change over the past two years has been the steady rise of college graduates in their mid-20s returning to the agency to change jobs, something unheard of in the traditional pattern of Japanese employment.

Mr. Watanabe said the first thing the young want is job satisfaction, not security. "Company loyalty isn't important anymore," he added in an interview.

Mr. Hakuhodo's senior research director, Yasuyoshi Fuse, agreed. "This generation is really abnormally spoilt," he said. "Motivated by acquisitiveness, it has a hard life ahead."

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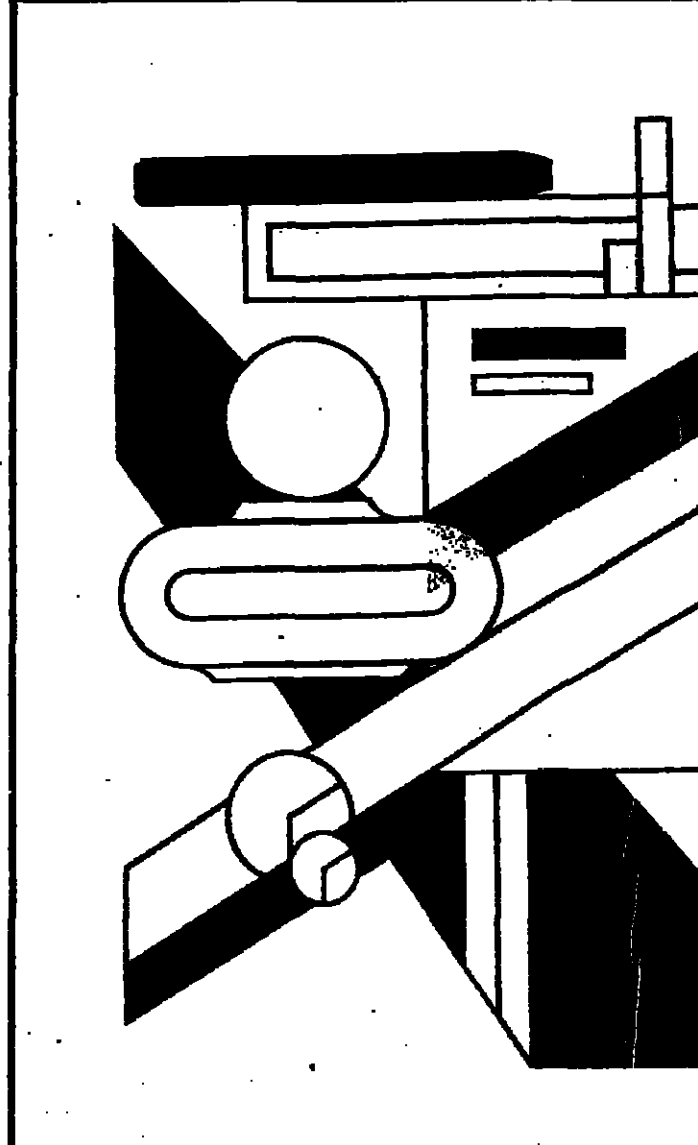
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Crooks ends Tottenham's 73-year jinx at Anfield

LONDON (R) — Garth Crooks' lightning reactions ended Tottenham's 73-year jinx at Liverpool Saturday and hauled his team level on points with leaders Everton in the race for the English First Division Soccer Championship.

Crooks was fastest to respond in Liverpool's crowded penalty area, stabbing home a loose ball to secure Tottenham's 1-0 win after Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar saved brilliantly from Mike Hazard's fierce volley in the 70th minute.

It was Crooks' 17th goal of the season — and Tottenham's first triumph at Liverpool's Anfield home since 1912.

The win kept Tottenham second in the table on goal difference but carried them level with Everton on 57 points.

Everton, who went ahead through a Kevin Richardson goal three minutes before halftime, had to settle for a point in a 1-1 draw at Aston Villa. Defender Allan Evans grabbed Villa's equaliser with a penalty seven minutes

from time.

Manchester United stay third four points further back following their 2-2 draw with West Ham Friday night.

Tottenham's win avenged their third round Football Association (FA) Cup defeat at Anfield two months ago and dented Liverpool's recently revived hopes of retaining the title.

The League and European Champions had much the better of the first half. Prolific Welsh marksman Ian Rush twice had the goal at his mercy but uncharacteristically delayed his shot on both occasions.

Fullback Alan Kennedy saw his thundering effort headed off the Tottenham line by Danny Thomas and Scottish midfielder Steve Nicol also hit the bar.

But Spurs, chasing their first title since 1961, soaked up the pressure and countered ruthlessly with 20 minutes left.

England midfielder Glenn Hoddle headed down for Hazard to blast his volley high to Grobelaar's right. The goalkeeper palmed the ball aside and Crooks raced off the mark to end one of the worst result sequences in the English league.

Arsenal's 2-0 win over Leicester eased them into fourth place although Scottish striker Charlie Nicholas went off injured after 60 minutes.

Southampton dropped to fifth in the table after dropping two points in a goalless draw with bottom club Stoke City. Liverpool slipped to sixth.

Everton saw two vital championship points slip away when Villa captain Evans equalised from the penalty spot.

Evans comfortably beat goalkeeper Neville Southall after Gary Stevens brought down Mark Walters in a scramble which was typical of a scrappy, poor-quality match.

Richardson, playing his first league game since October, pounced on a poor back pass from Villa's Steve McMahon to shoot his side ahead in the 42nd minute.

But the league leaders, missing two key players from midfield, were far below their best.

Sunderland emerged 3-1 victors over Norwich in their rehearsal for next Sunday's League Cup final.

Striker Ian Wallace, playing his first full game since returning to England from French club Brest three months ago, put Sunderland ahead after 10 minutes. An own goal by Greg Downs increased the visitors' advantage 22 minutes later before John Deehan hit back for Norwich two minutes before halftime.

But a last minute goal by David Hodgson secured points and the psychological advantage for Sunderland before their Wembley rematch next week.

Holmes stops Bey in farewell fight

LAS VEGAS (R) — For Larry Holmes, there was always something to prove.

First, he had to dispel doubts about his courage in the ring. Then he had to demonstrate that he was a worthy successor to Muhammad Ali as a heavyweight champion.

And Friday night, in what he said was his final fight, he tried to show that he was still the best heavyweight in the world and perhaps one of the greatest of all time.

In what was billed as "The Grand Finale", 35-year-old Holmes squelched a widely-held opinion that he had faded badly when he survived several solid blows to the head before stopping David Bey in the 10th round to retain his International Boxing Federation (IBF) title.

Sceptics said that in view of his unimpressive performance in stopping James "Bonecrusher" Smith last November, Holmes was ready to be taken — that he had gone on too long, as had Joe Louis and Ali before him.

But Holmes, in a masterful performance, clearly demonstrated

that he remains a skilful boxer with remarkable hand-speed, the ability to take a punch and possibly the best left jab in boxing history.

Although he insisted after the fight that he did indeed plan to announce his retirement, he again left the door slightly ajar for a return.

"I made up my mind, and I know what I'm going to do," said Holmes, unmarked after flooring Bey twice in the eighth round and then battering him into submission with about a dozen unanswered blows in the 10th that forced referee Carlos Padilla to stop the fight with two seconds remaining.

What Holmes meant was that, after winning all 47 of his professional fights during a 12-year professional career, he was retiring only two victories short of equaling Rocky Marciano's 49-0 heavyweight record.

"I'm really looking forward to retirement," he said, "unless they come up with a whole lot of money

for me to fight Gerry Cooney or Michael Spinks (the undisputed light-heavyweight champion)."

Holmes realised that neither fight is likely to materialise, since Cooney, whom he knocked out three years ago, has again gone into fistic limbo, and Spinks would be giving away too much weight.

With an estimated \$20 million in the bank in his hometown of Easton, Pennsylvania, along with a restaurant, nightclub, hotel, gymnasium, sporting goods store and motel, Holmes is financially secure.

"I want to enjoy my family and spend more time with my business," he said. "Why should I go on fighting?"

Holmes reiterated that he has no desire to meet either of the two other heavyweight title-holders — World Boxing Association Champion Greg Page or Pinklon Thomas, the World Boxing Council king.

"There's no money out there for those fights, and no point in me fighting them," he said.

Organisers drop plans for Rome Grand Prix

ROME (R) — Organisers of the inaugural Rome Grand Prix motor race, planned for October, are scrapping their preparations for the event after opposition from city councillors and environmentalists.

The Italian Automobile Club (ACI) said in a statement Saturday it was handing responsibility for the race back to the sport's governing body, the International Motor Sports Federation (FISA).

The move follows a heated debate in the city council Friday when four major political parties presented motions against holding the race in Rome's southern suburb of Eur.

Councillors postponed until Monday a secret ballot on the race, which was planned for a 3.7-km symmetrical circuit round Eur, designed by Benito Mussolini's architects as a permanent exhibition centre.

The ACI said Saturday: "Such a prestigious event, which was a tribute to Italian sport and the national automobile industry, cannot be subjected to the changing whims of politics."

The Grand Prix, scheduled for October 13, won the backing of Rome's communist mayor Ugo Vetere and members of two parties on the council but political sources said it had only a narrow

chance of being approved on Monday.

Three parties called for the race to be cancelled while the Christian Democrats suggested it was moved to Ostia, on the coast near Rome.

But the automobile club said Saturday FISA had approved the Eur circuit on the grounds of safety and ease of organisation and the race could not be staged anywhere else.

"The organisation of a Formula One Grand Prix on a city circuit calls for a much greater cooperation than has been shown," the ACI statement said.

Last Monday, an ecology group applied to a Rome magistrate to ban the race on the grounds that it would cause pollution and endanger the environment and the health of inhabitants.

The League for the Environment objected to plans to resurface and widen the road — a major commuter route — cut down 14 trees and build three grandstands to seat 65,000 spectators.

The ACI rejected the group's charges. "It doesn't take much imagination to realise that 26 Formula One cars will cause a lot less pollution than the thousands of cars and lorries that use the road every day," it said.

UEFA to compensate losers

LISBON (AP) — The European Soccer Union (UEFA) voted Friday to set aside 500,000 Swiss francs (\$175,000) to compensate the financial losses of clubs knocked out in the first two rounds of European soccer competitions.

UEFA press spokesman Rudolph Rothebuehler said clubs eliminated from the UEFA Cup, European Champions Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup competitions would be eligible for a maximum compensation of 30,000 Swiss francs (\$10,500) and no more than half their proved losses from participating.

The decision was announced at the close of a two-day UEFA executive committee meeting in Lisbon under president Jacques Georges of France.

The committee Thursday approved a controversial proposal to stage the 1988 European Soccer Championships in West Germany

but to exclude West Berlin from the seven venues.

In other decisions announced Friday, the committee ruled a one-leg final of the European Super Cup would be played for the next three years at the neutral Luis II stadium in Monte Carlo.

Other decisions included: Changing the title of the UEFA under-21s tournament to the European under-21s tournament to boost the prestige of the competition.

Setting Lisbon as the venue for the 1986 UEFA Congress.

Carrying out a study aimed at defining precise rules for five-a-side football and increasing UEFA's jurisdiction over what the committee said was a game of "growing interest and popularity."

Setting Greece as the venue for next season's under-16s European Championships.

IOC to ban blood doping

By Floris van Straaten
Reuter

LONDON — Olympic officials, shocked by revelations of blood doping at the Los Angeles Games, will ban the practice even though there is no way of detecting it.

They will take the unusual step at their meeting in East Berlin in June for two reasons. First, so they can catch offenders when a test is eventually perfected and, secondly, to formalise their disapproval of the performance-boosting technique.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission chairman Prince Alexandre de Merode told Reuters the admitted case of blood doping by U.S. cyclist in Los Angeles had helped alter the IOC's position on the controversial practice.

The IOC had not previously banned blood doping because it felt a ban would be pointless without detection methods.

But the IOC now wanted to

have the option of taking action against athletes and it further hoped a ban would put moral pressure on competitors to refrain from blood doping.

Blood doping normally involves removing an athlete's own blood after an intense training period and then restoring it after two weeks when the body has made up the loss.

Training increases the concentration of oxygen-carrying red blood cells and when the blood is returned the amount of oxygen circulated by the blood is greatly enhanced.

Despite allegations against athletes in the past, blood doping became a major public issue only after the case of the U.S. cycling team in Los Angeles last year.

Finland's outstanding Olympic distance runners were alleged to have resorted to blood doping at the 1976 and 1980 games.

Lasse Viren, 5,000 and 10,000 metres gold medalist in 1972 and 1976, strenuously denied these allegations but Kaarlo Maaninka, who won silver in the 10,000 and bronze in the 5,000 metres in 1980, subsequently admitted being blood doped.

The U.S. Cycling Federation suspended Edward Borysewicz after details of his team's use of blood doping came out but the coach still regards the method as a legitimate means of improving performance.

IOC officials disagree and cast doubt about blood doping's efficacy and safety.

"It is not only necessary to know whether it increases or reduces performance, it is also necessary to know if it is dangerous," Albert Dirix, secretary of the IOC medical commission, said.

Dirix said blood doping could be dangerous in certain cases be-

cause red corpuscles deteriorated if they were kept frozen for too long. The athlete's circulation could also be affected because extra red blood cells tended to make blood less fluid.

Research into blood doping was formerly concentrated on its effects but, since the case of the American cycling team, scientists have increased research into ways of detecting the practice.

Scientists say that theoretically one can determine the extent to which blood doping boosts the number of red cells. But a doctor would first have to know the normal level of cells in the body which would vary for each athlete, Dirix said.

However, a doctor with the Swedish ski team, Peter Hemmingsson, believes he has discovered another means of detecting blood doping.

"The age distribution among the blood cells and the degree of their deterioration is larger in blood which has been stored and treated for later re-injection. There are also mechanical changes," Hemmingsson said.

Hemmingsson has asked both the IOC and the International Ski Federation to help his research.

At the conclusion of the Rothmans Jerash Rally, the Motor Sports Committee of the Royal Automobile Club, organiser of the rally, wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude to Rothmans of Pallmall (Overseas) Limited for sponsoring the event and to the following for their valuable cooperation and assistance:

1. The Ministry of Interior
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6. The Public Security Directorate
7. The Civil Defence Directorate
8. The Highway Patrol
9. The Social Security Corporation/Jerash Resthouse
10. The Royal Jordan Radio Amateur Society
11. Doctors of the University of Jordan
12. The Arab Computer Technology Company/Texas Instruments computers
13. The Jordan Television Corporation
14. The Hashemite Broadcasting Services
15. The National Mineral Water Company (SABIL Co. Ltd.)
16. Hanbo Construction Company
17. The UKAS Club
18. The League of Sports Information
19. Sports journalists of the local press and members of the Royal Automobile Club and friends who assisted in the rally by manning control points etc...

Official results of the Rothmans Jerash Rally

Overall				
Driver	Co-driver	Car	Time (Minutes:seconds)	
1. N. Dirani	G. Almond	Nissan RS 240	50:30	
2. G. Khayyat	K. Ferry	Nissan RS 240	51:02	
3. H. Mufti	B. Gwynne	Daihatsu Charmant	51:08	

Group Positions

Group A	B. Gwynne	Daihatsu Charmant
Group B	G. Almond	Nissan RS 240
N. Dirani		

Class Positions

Class 1	H. Mufti	B. Gwynne	Daihatsu Charmant
Class 2	N. Dirani	G. Almond	Nissan RS 240

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2. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the office of Aqaba Railway Corporation, P.O. Box 50, Ma'an, Jordan (Telex No. 62225 ARC JO) after purchasing bidding document.
3. A complete set of bidding document may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder from the above address or from our representative at the Ministry of Transport and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 80.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 5 per cent of the bid value and must be delivered to the Ma'an office on or before 12.00 hrs. on 16.4.1985.

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Blue jeans suffer fading appeal

LONDON — The decision by Levi Strauss, the world's leading jeans manufacturer, to close production plants in Britain, France and Belgium and undertake a management reorganisation may not be the end of the closures to hit the industry.

Levi Strauss is in trouble at home in the U.S. as well as in Europe. Profits dropped to \$41.4 million last year from \$194.5 million in 1983. Sales fell 8 per cent to \$2.51 billion. 20 plants were closed and 5,000 jobs were axed.

Wrangler, a subsidiary of Blue Bell and Levi's biggest rival, is also facing problems. Since its figures are subsumed within the parent corporation, however, it is difficult to quantify how badly it has been hit.

In Europe, Lee Cooper has also taken knocks, having to close plants and reorganise. Lois, a Spanish company, and Falmers have also suffered.

Mr. Miles Templeman, marketing director of Levi Strauss in Europe, says: "The world of jeans is not dead. Far from it. There is still great mileage to be won from production of jeans provided we can get the fashion content right."

The figures appear to substantiate him. It has been estimated that slightly more than 40 million pairs of jeans were sold in Britain alone last year, a big market. In the U.S. more than 500 million pairs are sold annually.

But if jeans, and denim from which most are made, are not dead their heyday is over. According to Mr. Robert Haas, U.S. president

of Levi Strauss, demand is going to remain "flat" for some time.

Jeans have been hit by an increasing fashion consciousness among young people. Instead of the straightforward pair of blue denim trousers, supplemented perhaps by a denim top, younger people are increasingly buying more casual wear separates.

The first big attack on jeans came when tracksuits became acceptable as everyday wear. This was followed by increasing purchases of separates — blouses, jackets or cardigans with trousers.

Words like "fashion" and "style" became much more important and with them a shift in buying patterns.

At about the same time — the early '80s — the jeans manufacturers had become stuck in their own time warp.

Jeans were the uniform of the generation that emerged after 1965. They reflected, through the medium of apparel, changing patterns that were taking place in life-style. Long before the word androgynous became fashionable in the clothing world, boys and girls were buying blue jeans from the same racks.

The manufacturers responded by making not just an asexual garment but one garment, the standard five-pocket Western-style jean. By 1981, the peak year, about 55 million pairs were sold in Britain, most of them Western jeans.

Primed by their own success the manufacturers failed to see the emergence of greater fashion con-

sciousness and paid the penalty as buyers switched to other types of material and styles.

"The market has become much more fragmented," Mr. Templeman says. "Much more variety is needed now, especially if we are to compete with cheap imports from the Far East."

Mr. Pierre Pouillot, the French-born chief executive of Lee Cooper, the British company, believes the answer is "to build in more styles, more fashion and to produce in other clothes".

At the recent French menswear exhibition in Paris, Lee Cooper has a range of clothes on their stand far removed from blue denim.

"Until 1983 two-thirds of our output was one item, the Western jean. Now it is just under half. What we are doing is looking for other garments to make. In two years we have nearly doubled the volume of jackets we make."

The search for alternatives is being frantically pursued by all the companies, not altogether successfully. The first step was to turn the five-pocket jean — four patch pockets and a ticket pocket — into the more conventional trouser

with angled internal pockets in denim. After that, the manufacturers started making trousers in other materials, then other items of apparel.

However, the market for fashionable jeans appears to have been cornered by the "names" selling at premium prices — Calvin Klein, Gloria Vanderbilt and the like. The traditional manufacturers have not found it easy forcing their way into the top end of the market.

"We are not used to supplying the sharp, sharp runs that higher fashion dictates," Mr. Pouillot says.

In the U.S., Levi Strauss came up with a line, called Common Man's Appeal, described as clothes for people who live in the fast-lane.

Unfortunately, it seems there were not enough people of this type and the momentum appears to have gone out of common man.

"If we are to succeed," says Mr. Templeman, "we must find new business outside the jeans field." In this effort Levi Strauss is being joined by all its competitors — Financial Times news feature.

Oman levies paints, pipes

MUSCAT (R) — Oman has imposed customs duty of 15 and 20 per cent for one year on a range of paints and pipes to protect domestic industry, the official gazette said Saturday. The 15 per cent duty applies to enamel and emulsion paints and the 20 per cent levy to pipes made of PVC, cast iron, polyethylene, vitrified clay, asbestos cement and glass fibre reinforced plastic, the gazette said. Cast iron and vitrified clay pipes produced by Oman's partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — are exempt from the duty, it added.

PVC pipes less than 19 millimetre in diameter and polyethylene pipes smaller than 25 millimetre are also exempt, regardless of country of origin, it said. GCC members have introduced a standard two per cent tariff on goods imported from outside the council area but Oman enjoys privileges because of its relative underdevelopment.

Japan's growth rate nears 10 per cent for end of '84

TOKYO (R) — The Japanese economy grew at an annual rate of nearly 10 per cent in the last quarter of 1984, making it one of the fastest-growing economies in the industrial world, the government's economic planning agency said Friday.

In the three months from October to December the growth rate, after removing the effect of inflation, was 9.6 per cent, compared to United States' growth of 3.9 per cent. It was one of Japan's best performances since the 1973 oil shock.

The year-end rate boosted growth for all of 1984 to 5.8 per cent against 3.4 per cent in 1983, which compared with the U.S. after-inflation growth rate of 6.8 per cent for 1984.

Strong exports, more spending on new factories and production lines, and a drop in oil imports accelerated the Japanese growth rate from only 2.6 per cent in the previous quarter, economists said.

Economists at the Nomura Research Institute said the recently-cheap yen had bolstered

they did at the same time last year, he told Reuters.

"Japan's 1985 growth rate will only be about 4.7 per cent," he forecast.

The government continues to worry about the dependency of the Japanese economy on exports as Japan faces widespread international complaints about huge trade surpluses it is now accumulating.

It had hoped the latest figures would show a strong revival in domestic consumer spending, which could raise demand for foreign products. But they disclose that such spending accounted for only a small part of the high growth.

Meanwhile, the electronic industries association said Friday that Japan's production of electronic products, including video tape recorders and computers, rose 31.4 per cent in 1984.

An association report said 1984 production was worth 16,776 billion yen (\$64 billion) after a 16.5 per cent increase in 1983.

Top Brazilian officials pledge to fight inflation

BRASILIA (R) — Brazil's new civilian government, saddled with a \$100 billion debt after 21 years of military rule, took power Friday promising to fight inflation while increasing welfare spending.

An emergency operation for an intestinal complaint prevented President-elect Tancredio Neves from formally taking office and outlining his plans, but the key policies of the new administration were disclosed in a speech by Planning Minister Joao Sayad.

Mr. Sayad described Brazil's economic crisis as "explosive". Inflation, running at more than 230 per cent a year, high unemployment, crippling domestic interest rates and excessive public spending were priorities for action, he said.

Mr. Sayad said the new government planned to direct public spending towards health, education, the provision of basic foods, housing, security and justice.

The military government had placed emphasis on investments in energy, communications, transport and infrastructure.

Mr. Sayad said the rise in Brazil's trade surplus and build-up of international reserves should enable the government to achieve acceptable conditions for the payment of its foreign debt.

"We will seek conditions that are compatible with the basic objectives of sustaining economic growth and reducing inflationary pressures," he said.

Statements from other members of the new economic team also identified inflation and public spending as the main areas for action.

Central Bank Governor Antonio Carlos Lemgruber said austere monetary policies were essential, though these would not imply a reduction in productivity.

Finance Minister Francisco Dornelles said sustained, solidly-based growth was impossible without a reversal of inflationary trends and the cleaning up of public sector finances.

EC prepares for crucial tough talks with Spain

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers meet Sunday to prepare for Monday's crucial round of Common Market entry negotiations with Spain and Portugal.

The Community has set a target date of Jan. 1 next year for their accession, and agreement needs to be reached soon if the deadline is to be met.

Diplomats said that at their four-day meeting, the ministers should be able to finalise a joint negotiating position on controversial conditions for Spanish entry. They also hope to settle some lesser issues affecting Portugal.

Intensive talks with senior officials resolved most of the key problems in the Spanish negotiations that had divided the 10-nation Community for months and delayed the entry talks.

The diplomats said the focus was likely to shift for the first time from the Community's internal splits to the tough bargaining with Spain.

Foreigners boost German shares

FRANKFURT — "Without the foreigners, nothing much happens" remarks a Frankfurt banker in summing up the German share market. This certainly seems the case judging by events on the bourse in recent weeks.

Foreign buying has been the driving force behind the share market's rise to new peaks since the beginning of this year. More than half of turnover has involved foreigners, according to banking circles.

Assuming that a lot of British buying is on behalf of Americans, U.S. interest now accounts for more than half the foreign dealings in the West German share market, according to bankers.

"The Americans are bigger in the market than the Swiss, who used to be the main buyers," one banker says. "The American interest has been building up steadily over the last two to three years."

Foreigners added DM3.67 billion (\$1.08 billion) worth of West German shares to their portfolios last year (32 per cent more than in 1983). This was the result of foreign buying orders totalling DM19.54 billion and selling orders of DM15.87 billion.

Foreigners thus accounted for a sizeable slice of last year's share turnover on West Germany's eight regional stock markets. Official figures put turnover at DM84.7 billion, marginally ahead of 1983, but trading outside bourse hours would add perhaps 20 per cent to this.

As the U.S. dollar has risen, German shares have appeared relatively inexpensive for American investors, notable pension funds. This has added to the attraction of shares which, according to West German bankers, have a number of fundamental economic factors in their favour.

For a start, the German economy is expected to show further moderate growth of 2.5 to 3 per

cent this year, with stimulus coming from exports and investment.

Inflation is low by anyone's standards, running at little more than 2 per cent a year. What's more, company profits, which grew by 30 per cent last year, are expected to show a further 15 per cent rise this year.

The Commerzbank index, which closed last year at an all-time high of 1107.9 (70 per cent up on the trough of August 1982), began this year by going ahead to successive new peaks.

It touched a record level despite nervousness before and after the Bundesbank's decision on Jan. 31 to raise the Lombard rate, one of its key interest rates.

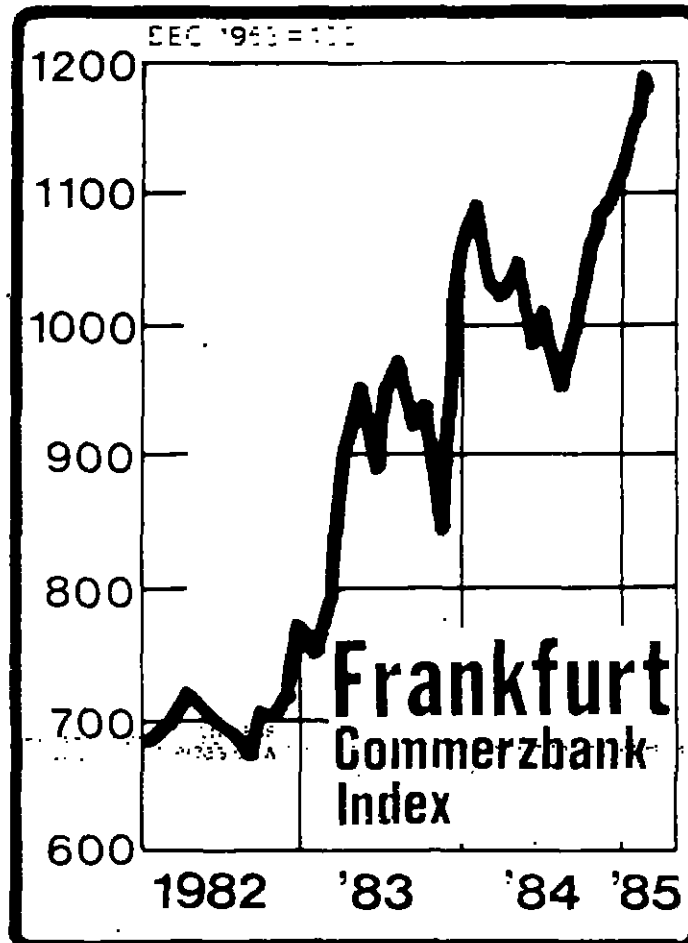
However, the share and bond markets have recently been unsettled by the prospect of a further increase in interest rates in the face of the rising dollar (with its implication of imported inflation in West Germany).

A tantalising question has also been raised in stock market circles in view of the increased U.S. involvement. If the dollar falls, will foreign investors — who may have made currency losses as the dollar rose — sell out in profit-taking exercises, as happened in the 1960s?

Bankers feel that much U.S. buying is medium — to long-term, to build up an increased West German element in international portfolios. They believe, moreover, that U.S. investors "learn a lesson" in the 1960s and are more sophisticated in bourse trading.

At the same time they are aware that foreigners, while not constantly predominant in bourse dealings, have in the past set off trends by "giving a kick" to the market, as one banker puts it.

With a market capitalisation of DM246.7 billion at the end of last year, the West German bourse is modest in comparison with the



larger stock markets of New York, Tokyo, and London, but has gained some dynamism as more companies have gone public in recent years.

New share launchings reached a peak of 21 issues last year, with Deutsche Bank particularly active, and the wave is expected to roll on this year, though perhaps not quite with the same momentum.

In recent buying, foreigners have been attracted to the "blue chip" stocks, particularly those

benefiting from business in the U.S., such as Porsche (the non-voting preference shares of which were launched on the market last year), Daimler-Benz, and major chemical companies.

With a more discriminating approach, some local investors have turned more to second-ranking stocks and to warrants granting future rights to shares. Some Middle East investors have also been selling.

— Financial Times news feature.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A very good Sunday to plan your future, not only that you will be more understanding of modern adaptations, but also where planning is concerned, you're up on it.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Analyze your ambitions well so that you know how to gain them and can realize greater benefits in the days ahead.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be more alert in outside activities so that you make the finest impression on those who count.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get into philosophical studies of the highest order that can assist you to live a more glorious life.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get into some new activity that could easily bring you quick advancement. Be thoughtful to your mate.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Cultivating a clever person today can inspire you to greater achievement and to have a more interesting life.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Good day to plan the activities for the new week most carefully so that you can gain maximum success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Contact good friends and be off to some exciting new activity that can please all. Drive with care today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Write or telephone friends and tell them how much you like them and improve relationships. Entertain at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have fine creative ideas so make use of them quickly and you can make a good impression on higher-ups.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get right into those activities at home that will be pleasurable for all dwelling there. Become more modern in your outlook.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have unusual talents and you can now express them admirably. Plan the future intelligently.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study your property carefully and see if any repairs are needed and plan just how to make them. Show devotion to mate.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she is a definite New Age child and will be most interested in everything of a modern nature and would do well with computers, electronics, hydrodynamics, etc. Give a standard education and religious training.

THE Daily Crossword

by John H. Hales

ACROSS

- Turf, mountain
- Lab staple
- Piper's son
- Capital of Colombia
- Unlaid
- de la Paix
- Rousse
- Marx's near
- Glaciarium
- stunt
- Is capable of
- Sign to proceed
- Collection of anecdotes
- Near Miss
- Clay or Daffy
- Mess-like
- David's opus
- Old lace
- partner
- Concept
- Ten, shrine
- Then
- Go on — (frangipani)
- Burrower
- Kind of wine
- Contemporary
- Exclude
- Aircraft type
- Periodic table prefix
- Family member
- Strauss theme
- Ms MacGraw
- Ullmann of the movies
- Ennui
- Twist
- Busen role
- Historic city in IL
- Apocalyptic figure
- Victory or Saratoga
- Meeting; abbr.
- Brother to sinner

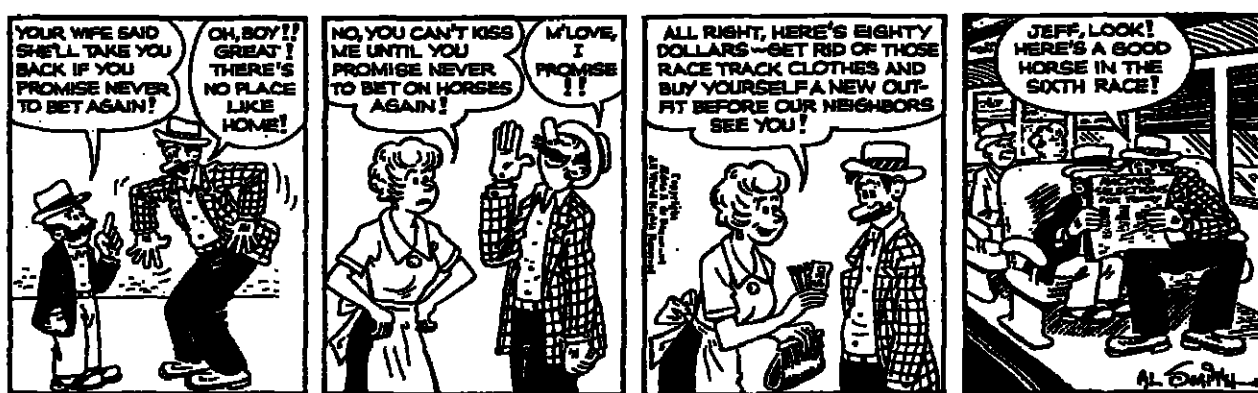
DOWN

- Manila hemp
- Comic Dan
- Gwyn's capital
- Seoul soldier
- Had a bite
- In a mess
- Air, fox
- Funny play
- Goodnight —
- Wattle
- Math course for short
- Sound of pain
- Accost
- Appraise
- Positioned naturally
- Part of A.D.
- Chan
- Yemen port
- Scout's position
- Contrary one
- Dilemma; abbr.
- Ameyella fish
- Place for tears
- Come into view
- Medicine
- Tel. Nether city
- Witch income
- Movie crabweb
- Rosa, river
- Increase
- Ship's host
- More urgent
- LaSalle's "Gill —"
- Speech problem
- Eye lay
- Omec, Pt.
- Guardian split
- Yankee
- Doodle —

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

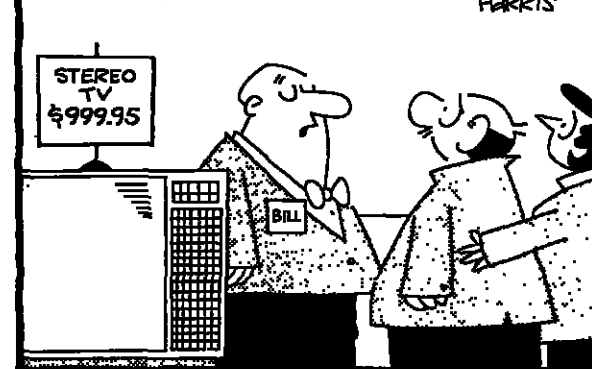


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"If you don't buy it you'll be partially responsible for the economic downfall of our great nation."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

COASH

MYLAN

VILEWE

GURFEE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ITCHY COMET FIASCO SPORTY

Answer: What he said her new headgear was — A "HAT-ROCKY"

U.K. believes Soviet base not linked to Star Wars

LONDON (AP) — The British have refuted U.S. claims that a big radar base the Soviets are building in Central Siberia violates the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty, the Daily Telegraph reported Saturday.

The Americans have claimed the "phase array" radar complex at Krasnoyarsk is a space battle control centre, part of a ground-based anti-ballistic missile system.

They have made it the centrepiece of their claims the Soviets have breached the treaty, citing this and other alleged violations as justification for proceeding with their Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), or the Star Wars programme, to build space-based weapons to counter Soviet missile attacks.

The Telegraph said that British experts have concluded after studying satellite photographs of the Krasnoyarsk complex, "and presumably other evidence," that it is not part of a Soviet space weapons programme.

The paper's diplomatic correspondent, David Adamson, noted: "The most they will say is that the Soviet Union has 'a case to answer' in response to the American accusations."

The Krasnoyarsk installation is scheduled for completion in 1987. The Soviets say it is no more than

an advanced satellite-tracking station.

The issue of whether the radar complex violates the 1972 treaty has become a crucial factor in the arms limitation talks that resumed this week in Geneva.

Meanwhile the official Soviet News Agency TASS, in its first major commentary on U.S. Star Wars research since Mikhail Gorbachev took power, said Friday it is impossible to tackle nuclear arms reduction without resolving the problem of space weapons.

The commentary by Vladimir Chernyshev did not appear to break any new ground, but drew together major Soviet objections to the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative aimed at putting an anti-missile system in outer space.

Chernyshev opened his commentary by repeating exactly a sentence used by Mr. Gorbachev in London last December when speaking out against space weapons.

"The Soviet leadership have repeatedly emphasised that in the

present-day conditions it is of importance to prevent the transfer of the arms race to outer space. If this is not done, it is unreal to hope for reduction and limitation of nuclear arms," Chernyshev wrote. Mr. Gorbachev used the last sentence when speaking at a luncheon hosted by Britain's Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, in London.

Chernyshev went on to summarise six well-known Soviet arguments against space weapons, saying these would all result from preparation for Star Wars.

He said first that realisation of President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative "would nullify everything positive that was achieved in the 1970s" in arms control and undermine the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty.

Secondly, Chernyshev argued, U.S. security would be undermined, rather than enhanced, because no space-based missile defence could guarantee 100 per cent security.

He also said, "it is extremely absurd" to think the Soviets would not take counter-measures.

He also objected to the increased danger if any space-based anti-missile defence were deployed, arguing that nuclear war could break out by accident.



EXHIBITIONS OPENED: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan views books and publications on display in an exhibition which he opened Saturday as part of the second symposium of the fourth conference on Bilad Al Sham (Petra photo)

Salvadorean gunships attack rebels

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Salvadorean Air Force gunships launched a heavy assault early Saturday against suspected guerrilla positions on a volcano overlooking the capital, sparking the heaviest fighting in months, eyewitnesses said.

An armed C-47 plane and several air force helicopters circled San Salvador Volcano, concentrating their fire on the ravines which fringe the capital's most exclusive suburbs.

Tracer bullets and rockets cut orange streaks across the predawn sky as the aircraft strafed and pounded the ravines on the slopes of the volcano, the witnesses said.

Military sources confirmed the fighting, which they said was probably the biggest air assault in the capital in more than five years. But they said they did not know the exact circumstances or if there had been any casualties.

The sources said the military had most likely detected guerrilla groups moving down the volcano towards the city.

There were unconfirmed reports of guerrilla bombings in the city shortly before the fighting.

U.S. and Salvadorean military officials said recently they expected a resurgence of leftist guerrilla activity in the capital ahead of elections for the National Assembly and for municipal officials on March 31.

Guerrillas have been fighting a campaign to topple the U.S.-backed government since 1979.

Of the six urban rebel commando groups operating in the capital, at least two — the Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Front and the Vladimir Umana Santa Maria Commando Unit — are believed by intelligence officials to have bases on the volcano.

The volcano is also believed to be the site of guerrilla radio and telecommunications installations and much of the aircraft fire seemed directed towards a cluster of antennae on its peak.

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7 die in Indonesian explosion

JAKARTA (R) — Seven people were killed and 14 injured in an explosion on a bus bound from Java to the tourist island of Bali, police said.

A plastic-wrapped package on a seat in the bus exploded just before the vehicle reached the town of Banyuwangi Friday Night, police said.

All the dead were Indonesian nationals but one of the injured was tentatively identified as a British citizen. The names of the victims were not immediately released.

Police said the bus was carrying 28 passengers from the city of Malang to Denpasar, Bali.

They said a special team had been sent to investigate the cause of the blast. One of the passengers was currently under interrogation, police said.

A British embassy spokesman later confirmed a British citizen had been injured in the blast. He declined to name the Briton until the family had been notified.

Just three days ago, an explosion at an Indonesian Armed Forces ammunition dump in Bandung, West Java, killed 17 soldiers and civilians and wounded an unknown number of others, official sources said.

A military statement said the blast was accidental but diplomats said they did not entirely rule out sabotage.

It followed a blast last January when nine home-made bombs exploded at the ancient Buddhist temple of Borobudur in central Java, causing serious damage but no casualties.

COLUMBIA

China opens training course for nuns

PEKING (AP) — A two-year training course for Buddhist nuns opened Friday in Peking as part of a government-backed drive to replenish the Chinese capital's nun population, devastated during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution when religion was outlawed.

The official news agency Xinhua said 10 students aged 20 to 32 enrolled in the course, taught at a local temple by scholars among Peking's 400 learned Buddhists. Peking had more than 200 Buddhist nuns in 1966, but now has 40, aged between 70 and 94, the agency said. It did not explain what happened to the others.

"The purpose of the course is to train better-educated successors to the city's aged nun population," Xinhua said. The Communist Party permitted revival of religion after the Cultural Revolution but supervises it through the state-run Bureau of Religious Affairs. Six Buddhist colleges opened recently, including one for nuns.

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Cuba allows poet to emigrate

MIAMI (AP) — A Cuban poet who spent 15 years in prison has been allowed to leave that country, friends in Miami said. Angel Cuadras was released from prison in 1982 but was not permitted to emigrate until Sunday, when he was flown to Frankfurt, West Germany, with his wife Delfina.

The Cuadras are staying in Germany until they can arrange transportation to the United States, said Juana Rosa Pita, a longtime friend who lives in Miami. Cuadras's family lives in Modesto, California. The poet's first book, "Peldano," was published in 1959. He was jailed in 1967 on charges of conspiring against the government, according to Ms. Pita. He was released on probation in 1977, but was jailed again weeks later when his "impromptu" was published abroad.

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'Heterosexual contact can pass AIDS'

CHICAGO (AP) — Spouses of heterosexual AIDS victims can get the disease, apparently through repeated intercourse, says a new study that also indicates it is not passed through household contact. The study, reported Friday in the Journal of the American Medical Association, said five women married to men with AIDS or an AIDS-related disease had evidence of infection with the HTLV-3 virus, which is believed to cause the disease. The research showed three of the women had symptoms of AIDS — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — while four others in the study appeared healthy. But of 11 children from the families, only a 14-month-old child was found to have blood antibodies to the HTLV-3 virus, said the scientists, led by Dr. Robert Redfield of the Walter Reed U.S. Army Institute of Research in Washington. They said antibodies in the blood are an indication of infection that was probably passed to the infant while it was still in the womb. The mother had an advanced case of AIDS, the scientists said. "The lack of evidence of infection in the 10 older children in this limited study suggests that close household contact between parents and children is not a significant mode of HTLV-3 transmission," the scientists said. Studies have long suggested that the agent causing AIDS is transmitted through bodily fluids such as semen, blood and saliva.

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